

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Dial the Public Affairs UpDate Line (973-645-3657), or call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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Assistant U.S. Attorney  
JOYCE M. MALLIET  
973-645-2700

Ball 0709.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 9, 2007

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Former Postal Manager in Newton and Other N.J. Locations  
Admits Misuse of Government Property and Employees

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(More)

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**Breaking News (NJ) <http://www.njusao.org/break.html>**

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NEWARK – A former Post Office operations manager for the U.S. Postal Service pleaded guilty today to conspiring to defraud the United States through bribery and fraud, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

John Balliro, 51, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler to Count One of a Superseding Indictment, which charged him with conspiracy to defraud the United States. Judge Chesler continued Balliro's bail on a \$100,000 bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Oct. 18.

According to the Superseding Indictment, which was returned on May 23, 2007, Balliro worked in various capacities for the U.S. Postal Service, including as an Officer in Charge and a Postmaster for the Newton Post Office from April 1996 to August 1999. He also acted as the Post Office Operations Manager from August 1999 to June 2003 for the Central and Northern New Jersey Customer Service Districts for the Postal Service, supervising the operations of more than 75 post offices in Morris, Sussex, and Warren Counties.

At his plea hearing, Balliro admitted that he steered heating, ventilating and air conditioning ("HVAC") and plumbing work for Postal Service facilities to an HVAC business located in Pennsylvania. In return, Balliro admitted he accepted corrupt cash payments, ranging from \$100 to \$400 per instance, from the proprietor of the HVAC business.

Balliro also admitted that he steered automotive maintenance and cleaning work for Postal Service vehicles to a repair and car wash business, and that in return he accepted free automobile repairs for himself and relatives, a free automobile for his son, and between \$2,000 and \$2,500 in cash that was used for his daughter's wedding.

Balliro further admitted that he allowed another Postal Service employee to perform extensive carpentry work at his personal residences while the employee was on Postal Service time.

Two other guilty pleas have resulted from the investigation. Mark DiBattista, 49, of Newton, the owner of a Newton automobile repair and mobile wash service, pleaded guilty to misappropriation of Postal funds on June 8, 2005. Phillip Hall, 51, of East Orange, a former Dover postmaster, pleaded guilty to misappropriation of Postal funds on May 3, 2007. DiBattista and Hall are both awaiting sentencing.

Prior news releases on the above cases can be found by following the appropriate links on the U.S. Attorney's Office website at: [www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html).

The charge to which Balliro pleaded guilty carries a statutory maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Chesler will consult the advisory sentencing guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents from the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Jane Hughes, Special Agent in Charge of the New York and New Jersey Field Offices, with developing the case against Balliro.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joyce M. Malliet of the Special Prosecutions Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Thomas Bello, Esq. Staten Island, NY