

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Jose L. Linares
	:	
	:	
v.	:	Criminal No.
	:	
	:	
TARA FANNIN-MARK, a/k/a	:	18 U.S.C. § 201(c)(1)(B)
TARA MARK	:	

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

(Receiving an Illegal Gratuity by a Public Official)

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

A. Defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK, a/k/a TARA MARK, was employed as an Inspector by Company A that had entered into a contract with the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA"), an agency within the United States Department of Homeland Security, to inspect property belonging to individuals who sought FEMA assistance for damage caused by natural disasters.

B. Defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK was assigned to conduct inspections of houses and other property of individuals residing in New Jersey who applied for FEMA disaster assistance for damage caused by Hurricane Irene which struck New Jersey in August 2011.

C. As an Inspector employed by Company A for such purposes,

defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK's responsibilities included, among other things: (1) verifying the identity of an applicant for FEMA disaster assistance, (2) identifying the applicant's applicable insurance policies, and (3) inspecting the damaged property and collecting information for the purpose of determining the applicant's eligibility for and the amount of any FEMA disaster assistance to be provided. Thus, as a FEMA contract employee, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK had official responsibility for carrying out a federal program and policy and, accordingly, was a "public official" under 18 U.S.C. Section 201(a)(1).

D. A Cooperating Witness ("CW") was a New Jersey resident who sought assistance through FEMA's disaster assistance program to assist victims of Hurricane Irene.

2. On or about October 26, 2011, after CW had initiated a request for FEMA disaster assistance, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK conducted an inspection at CW's residence located in Essex County, New Jersey as part of FEMA's process for determining whether and to what extent CW was entitled to FEMA disaster assistance.

3. On or about October 28, 2011, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK asked CW, in substance and in part, whether CW had received a disaster assistance payment from FEMA.

4. On or about October 31, 2011, having been informed by CW that CW had received a disaster assistance check from FEMA, which

was in the amount of approximately \$2,313, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK told CW, in substance and in part, that defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK needed \$230 of the FEMA payment.

5. On or about November 3, 2011, at approximately 6:12 p.m., defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK and CW engaged in a telephone conversation, which was recorded, during which:

A. Defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK was informed by CW that CW was able to cash the FEMA check and that CW wanted to give defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK the \$230 that defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK asked for; and

B. Defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK stated, in substance and in part, that she was on her last appointment and that she would call CW back.

6. On or about November 3, 2011, at approximately 7:49 p.m., defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK and CW engaged in a telephone conversation, which was recorded, during which defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK stated, in substance and in part, that she could not come to see CW that night.

7. On or about November 7, 2011, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK met with CW at CW's residence in Essex County, New Jersey. During that consensually recorded meeting, defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK received and personally accepted \$230 in cash from CW for and because of an official act performed by defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK as a FEMA contract employee responding to CW's

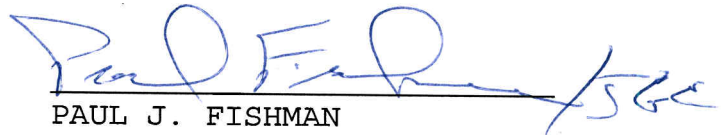
request for assistance through FEMA's disaster assistance program to assist victims of Hurricane Irene.

8. From on or about October 26, 2011 to on or about November 7, 2011, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

TARA FANNIN-MARK

being a public official, otherwise than as provided by law for the proper discharge of official duty, directly and indirectly, did knowingly demand, seek, receive, accept, and agree to receive and accept a payment of money personally for and because of an official act performed and to be performed by defendant TARA FANNIN-MARK.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(c)(1)(B).


PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney

CASE NUMBER: _____

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

**TARA FANNIN-MARK, a/k/a
TARA MARK**

INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 201(c)(1)(B)

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