

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	Hon. Claire C. Cecchi
	:	
v.	:	Crim. No.
	:	
RUSSELL FALLACARA	:	18 U.S.C. § 1349

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by Indictment, the United States charges:

1. At times relevant to this Information:
 - a. FALLACARA served as Director of the Hudson County, New Jersey Parks Department (the “Parks Department”).
 - b. William A. Murray (“Murray”) was a co-conspirator who owned a contracting company (“Company-1”) that served as a vendor for Hudson County, including for the Parks Department. Company-1 performed over \$5 million of work for Hudson County. That work included various services for the Parks Department, including but not limited to landscape maintenance, paving, and general contracting work.
 - c. Hudson County had an intangible right to the honest services of its officials. As a Hudson County official, FALLACARA owed Hudson County a duty to refrain from seeking, soliciting, demanding, accepting, and agreeing to accept bribes and kickbacks in exchange for action and assistance as an official of Hudson County and for his violation of his official duties in connection with the affairs of Hudson County.

d. A cooperative was a purchasing system utilized by Hudson County in which a local contracting unit (a “Local Contracting Unit”) advertised for bids and awarded contracts to vendors that are registered with the Local Contracting Unit. Under a cooperative purchasing agreement, the contract-awarding process for contracts whose value did not exceed \$17,500 was shorter than that of the standard bidding process and required less work by Hudson County.

e. Company-1 was the Local Contracting Unit’s only awarded vendor for repair and maintenance – job order contracting. Thus, when the Parks Department used the Local Contracting Unit for work that qualified as “repair and maintenance – job order contracting,” the work would be awarded to Company-1.

f. During his tenure as Parks Department Director, FALLACARA was involved in pricing Parks Department contracting work; played a significant role in the contracting process relating to the Parks Department; and approved “change orders,” or extra bills submitted by vendors, as well as emergency contracts.

THE OFFENSE

2. From in or about January 2022 through in or about February 2024, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, the defendant,

RUSSELL FALLACARA,

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with William A. Murray and others to devise and execute a scheme and artifice to defraud Hudson County of the right to the honest services of FALLACARA and others in the affairs of Hudson County, and to transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and

television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, contrary to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343 and 1346.

Object of the Conspiracy

3. It was an object of the conspiracy for Murray to pay bribes and kickbacks to FALLACARA in exchange for FALLACARA and other Hudson County officials taking official action including approving contracts and/or adding false expenses to contracts or invoices submitted to Hudson County by Murray.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy

4. It was part of the conspiracy that:
- a. Some of Company-1's contracts with Hudson County were awarded pursuant to the standard bidding process but most of Company-1's work for Hudson County was pursuant to a series of cooperative purchasing agreements.
 - b. Beginning in or around 2022, FALLACARA—while serving as Parks Director—participated in a bribe and kickback scheme with Murray, in which Murray paid bribes and kickbacks, directly and indirectly, to FALLACARA in exchange for FALLACARA taking official action with regard to approving contracts awarded to Company-1 by Hudson County, and approving invoices that were submitted by Company-1 to Hudson County. These bribes and kickbacks included, but were not limited to, at least \$400,000 in cash payments and other benefits to FALLACARA, including free home renovations that were being performed at FALLACARA's residence.

c. FALLACARA, Murray, and others used various interstate wire transmissions to further and facilitate their scheme, including but not limited to e-mails and text messages. For example, on or about June 14, 2023, FALLACARA and Murray exchanged text messages relating to the free home renovations that were being performed at FALLACARA's residence.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1349.

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

1. Upon conviction of the offense charged in this Information, defendant Russell Fallacara (“FALLACARA”) shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any property, real or personal, which constitutes or was derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of such offense.

SUBSTITUTE ASSETS PROVISION

If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant up to the value of the above-described forfeitable property.

ROBERT FRAZER
United States Attorney

/s/ Matthew Specht
Francesca Liquori
Matthew Specht
Jason Goldberg
Assistant U.S. Attorneys

Approved:

Ronnell L. Wilson
Ronnell L. Wilson
Chief, Special Prosecutions Division

CASE NUMBER: _____

**United States District Court
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INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 1349

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