## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Hon.

Criminal No.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :

V.

MARK DROPALA : Title 18, United States Code,

Section 1001 and Section 2

#### INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by
Indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:
At all times relevant to this Information:

#### Introduction

- 1. The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) was passed in 1970 to ensure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women. The OSHA Administration, a division of the Department of Labor, was created to set and enforce job site standards and to provide training, education and assistance to both employers and their employees. OSHA provided outreach training programs that increased the competence of those engaged in, among other professions, various aspects of the construction industry.
- 2. OSHA's Outreach Training Program ("OTP") is OSHA's primary way to train workers in the basics of occupational safety and health. The "OSHA 10-Hour" OTP was developed by the OSHA Training Institute with the intent to assist employers in training and introducing employees to the basic practices of identifying, reducing, eliminating and reporting hazards associated with their work. For example, OSHA offers a 10-Hour OTP with respect to safety regulations which aims to avoid serious and sometimes fatal accidents regarding, among other things, the handling of electrical equipment and the construction of scaffolds.

- 3. After completing the OSHA 10-Hour OTP, workers will receive OSHA 10-Hour cards which certify that the recipient has completed 10 hours of OSHA regulations and standards training, as set forth in Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1926.
- 4. An OSHA 10-Hour card allowed workers to work on prime job sites that demanded that workers hold OSHA accreditation.
- 5. Defendant MARK DROPALA was a resident of Queens, New York. He was certified by OSHA to provide training for OSHA's OTP, including the OSHA 10-Hour OTP, at various locations, including his residence.
- 6. As an OSHA training instructor, MARK DROPALA was required to sign a Statement of Compliance form, which obliged him truthfully to certify, under civil and criminal penalties, that he would ensure that the requirements of the most recent OSHA OTP regulations and procedures were acknowledged and followed. In addition, MARK DROPALA was required to file Outreach Training Reports after each training session with the Atlantic OSHA Training Center at Rutgers University School of Public Health, in New Brunswick, New Jersey.
- 7. Between on or about February 21, 2018, and on or about March 11, 2018, MARK DROPALA filed Outreach Training Reports that were materially false, in whole or in part. Specifically, MARK DROPALA filed Outreach Training Reports falsely claiming that approximately 73 students had attended his OSHA 10-Hour OTP classes; when, in fact, such students had not attended said classes. In return for falsely reporting their attendance at OSHA OTP classes, MARK DROPALA sought, and was paid, approximately \$200 per student for a false OSHA certification card.

#### Count One

#### (Making and Using False OSHA Documents)

8. Between on or about February 21, 2018 through on or about March 11, 2018, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, the defendant

#### MARK DROPALA

in a matter within the jurisdiction of the executive branch of the United States, namely, the United States Department of Labor, knowingly and willfully made materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and representations, and made and used false writings and documents knowing them to contain materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements and entries, to wit: fraudulent Outreach Training Reports, in violation of his Statement of Compliance.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 and Section 2.

Craig Carpenito

United States Attorney

CASE	NUMBER:	

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v.

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### **INFORMATION**

18 U.S.C. § 1001 & 2

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