



Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Louisiana

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FORMER MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES

NEW ORLEANS, LA— JOSEPH MISTICH, age 44, former Mandeville, Louisiana, Public Works Director, pled guilty to a Bill of Information charging him with misprision of a felony, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 4, announced U. S. Attorney Jim Letten.

In this particular case, MISTICH pled guilty to having knowledge of St. Tammany Councilman Joseph Impastato extorting a Lacombe, Louisiana company in relation to a Hurricane Katrina debris contract in St. Tammany Parish. Former Councilman Joseph Impastato, whose trial is set for June 11, 2007, was charged in a Superseding Indictment on August 11, 2006 with multiple counts of extortion, federal program fraud, conspiracy and attempted money laundering. According to the evidence submitted in court, MISTICH admitted knowing that former Councilman Impastato was extorting Lee Mauberret and Pontchartrain Chipping Yard in relation to a debris dumping contract between Pontchartrain Chipping and Omni Pinnacle, the major Hurricane Katrina vegetative debris disposal contractor for St. Tammany Parish.

The maximum penalty MISTICH can receive is three (3) years incarceration, a \$250,000.00 fine, as well as one year of supervised release following any incarceration. However, as in all federal criminal cases, the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines could have an effect on the amount of time MISTICH actually receives in jail.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Peter Thomson, Carter K. D. Guice, Jr. and Matthew Coman.

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