

NEWS

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Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 17, 2007

Monmouth County Developer Gets Two Years in Prison
for Bribing Former Ocean Township Mayor

(More)

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NEWARK – Monmouth County developer Moshe G. Gohar was sentenced today to 24 months in federal prison for making a \$50,000 corrupt payment to former Ocean Township Mayor Terrance D. Weldon to gain zoning approvals for a development project, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Joel L. Pisano also fined Gohar \$40,000. Gohar will surrender to the federal Bureau of Prisons once a prison assignment is made.

Under the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Gohar faced a probable sentencing range of between 18 and 24 months. Judge Pisano sentenced Gohar at the top of that range, and also imposed the maximum available fine.

Gohar, 57, of Ocean Township, pleaded guilty on Dec. 21, 2006, and admitted that he conspired with the late Neptune businessman Philip Konvitz and Weldon to pay Weldon the \$50,000 to change zoning that increased the number of homes Gohar could build in the development known as “Apple Farms.” Before the 81-acre property was rezoned, Gohar could build approximately 30 homes; Gohar ultimately was approved to build 75 homes, but the project never materialized after the FBI corruption investigation interrupted its progress.

Gohar pleaded guilty to once count of conspiring to give and offer corrupt payments.

Gohar admitted that he gave the \$50,000 in cash to Weldon in about the spring or early summer of 2001. He admitted that he gave him the money to corruptly influence and reward the then-mayor of Ocean Township for exercising his official influence and changing the zoning and approving the development of Apple Farms.

Weldon pleaded guilty to similar charges on Oct. 10, 2002, before U.S. District Judge William H. Walls. On Aug. 27, Judge Walls sentenced Weldon to 58 months in federal prison.

Christie credit Special Agents of the FBI’s Red Bank Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, with the investigation leading to Gohar’s prosecution. The case was be prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian R. Howe.

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Defense Counsel:
Joseph Hayden, Jr., Esq., and Blair Zwillman, Esq.