

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No. 07-
 :
 v. : 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) and § 2
 :
 MARCELLUS JACKSON : 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 that:

Attempted Extortion Under Color of Official Right

1. At all times relevant to this Information:

a. Defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON was an elected member of the City Council for the City of Passaic ("Passaic City Council"), the legislative body of the municipal government of the City of Passaic, New Jersey. As a member of the Passaic City Council, among other things, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON was empowered to vote on ordinances and resolutions, including those related to government contracts brought before the Passaic City Council.

b. Two cooperating witnesses ("CW-1" and "CW-2") and an undercover special agent ("UCA") of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") purported to be representatives of Coastal Solutions, LLC, an FBI undercover company that was represented to be capable of providing insurance brokerage services to governmental entities (hereinafter, the "FBI Undercover

Company"). As represented by these individuals, the FBI Undercover Company was based in New Jersey, did business in various states, and paid for goods and services in interstate commerce.

2. From in or about January 2007 to in or about August 2007, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON solicited and accepted corrupt payments of approximately \$26,000 from CW-1, CW-2 and UCA in exchange for the performance of his official duties and the exercise of his official influence as a member of the Passaic City Council to obtain City of Passaic insurance brokerage business for the FBI Undercover Company, and for arranging corrupt payments to other officials. Specific instances of this corrupt conduct include, but are not limited to:

a. On or about January 23, 2007, in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON accepted a corrupt cash payment of \$2,500 from the UCA in exchange for defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON's official assistance in securing insurance brokerage business for the FBI Undercover Company.

b. On or about March 8, 2007, in Clifton, New Jersey, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON accepted a corrupt cash payment of \$5,000 from CW-2 in exchange for defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON's official assistance in securing insurance brokerage business for the FBI Undercover Company.

c. On or about March 14, 2007, in Newark, New Jersey,

defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON arranged a meeting between defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON, Alfred Steele and CW-1, during which the parties discussed a corrupt agreement by which Alfred Steele would receive money in exchange for his official intercession on behalf of the FBI Undercover Company, and both defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON and Alfred Steele would receive a percentage of certain municipal government insurance brokerage business they were to obtain for the FBI Undercover Company.

d. On or about March 22, 2007, in Passaic, New Jersey, as a consequence of the corrupt arrangement described above in paragraph 2 and subparagraphs 2(a) and 2(b), defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON voted against two Passaic City Council resolutions, each related to the award of insurance brokerage contracts by the City of Passaic. These votes had the effect of favoring the FBI Undercover Company.

e. On or about April 5, 2007, in Newark, New Jersey, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON accepted a corrupt cash payment of \$6,000 from CW-2 in exchange for defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON's official assistance in securing insurance brokerage business for the FBI Undercover Company.

f. On or about May 4, 2007, in Newark, New Jersey, defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON accepted a corrupt cash payment of \$3,000 from CW-1 in exchange for defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON's official assistance in securing insurance brokerage business for

the FBI Undercover Company.

3. From in or about January 2007 to in or about August 2007, in Passaic County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

MARCELLUS JACKSON

did knowingly and willfully attempt to obstruct, delay and affect interstate commerce by extortion under color of official right - that is, by accepting and agreeing to accept corrupt payments that were paid by another, with that person's consent, in exchange for defendant MARCELLUS JACKSON's official influence and assistance in attempting to obtain insurance brokerage contracts from the City of Passaic for the FBI Undercover Company as specific opportunities arose.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951(a) and Section 2.

CHRISTOPHER J. CHRISTIE
United States Attorney