

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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Contact: hack1021.rel  
J. Gregory Reinert, Public Information Officer FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
856-757-5233 Oct. 21, 2008

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Former Orange Mayor and State Assemblyman Mims Hackett  
Sentenced to 9 Months in Prison and 9 Months Home Confinement  
for Taking \$5,000 Bribe

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(More)

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NEWARK – Former New Jersey Assemblyman and Orange Mayor Mims Hackett, Jr. was sentenced today to nine months in federal prison and nine months of home confinement for accepting a bribe from a cooperating witness who was representing an undercover insurance brokerage company in exchange for Hackett’s official assistance in attempting to steer public contracts to the company, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Jose L. Linares also ordered Hackett, 68, to pay a \$10,000 fine and to serve two years of supervised release, which is to include the term of home confinement. Judge Linares continued Hackett’s release on a \$200,000 bond pending his surrender to officials with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on a date to be determined by prison authorities.

Hackett pleaded guilty on May 27 to attempted extortion under color of official right. He was arrested on Sept. 6, 2007, along with 10 other public officials and one private citizen. The arrests were part of a public corruption investigation that progressed from southern to northern New Jersey. Of the 11 public officials arrested, nine have either pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial and two are pending trial later this year.

“Mims Hackett is going to jail for his crimes against the people of Orange and the people of the State of New Jersey,” Christie said, “We are gratified by that result and hope that it sends a clear message to anyone in public life, that if you corrupt your office you will be brought to justice.”

At his plea hearing, Hackett admitted that, on May 24, 2007, in his capacity as the mayor of Orange, he agreed to accept a \$5,000 cash payment in exchange for assisting the undercover insurance brokerage company in attempting to obtain business with the City of Orange. Hackett also admitted that, on Aug. 14, 2007, he accepted the \$5,000 corrupt cash payment and stated that he would continue to support the company. Hackett acknowledged that the payment was in exchange for using his official influence in attempting to get the company insurance brokerage business with Orange.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun, with the investigation of Hackett and the other defendants. He also credited prosecutors and investigators with the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Theodore F.L. Housel, for their assistance in the investigation.

The Government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Christopher J. Gramiccioni and David A. Bocian of the Office’s Special Prosecutions Division.

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Defense Attorney: John A. Azzarello, Esq., Chatham