



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

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CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

FORMER ATLANTA MAYOR SENTENCED TO PRISON ON FEDERAL FELONY TAX CHARGES

Atlanta, GA - WILLIAM C. CAMPBELL, 52, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, the former Mayor of the City of Atlanta, was sentenced today to serve 2 years, 6 months in federal prison by United States District Court Judge Richard W. Story. CAMPBELL was found guilty on March 10, 2006, by a federal jury on felony tax charges after an eight-week trial.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias made the following statement after the sentencing hearing:

“The sentence imposed upon Bill Campbell today by United States District Judge Richard Story is just and appropriate. The sentence of 2 ½ years in prison, without parole, reflects the seriousness of the defendant’s criminal conduct and the facts found by the jury at trial and by Judge Story during the sentencing hearing.

The Court found that Bill Campbell intentionally failed to report more than \$160,000 in mostly cash income on his tax returns for three years while he was mayor; that significant amounts of that unreported income came from criminal conduct, specifically, corrupt payments from a City contractor; that Mayor Campbell engaged in sophisticated efforts to conceal his crimes; that he has refused to accept responsibility for his crimes; and, finally and significantly, that Mayor Campbell obstructed and attempted to obstruct the investigation and prosecution of this case.

Justice has now been done: After a full and fair trial and sentencing hearing, Bill Campbell has been found guilty of three serious felonies and is going to prison. But while this is a good day for justice, it is also a sad day. It is sad because we have seen a man with rare talent and ability take the wrong path into crime, and because we will never know where this great City would stand today had it not endured the crimes committed by and under Mayor Bill Campbell.

I want to address one final point. Bill Campbell and some of his supporters have often claimed – and alleged again in court this afternoon – that the U.S. Attorney’s

Office, and federal law enforcement generally, focused on him personally and dedicated huge resources to trying to convict him.

In fact, the government did not set out to investigate, much less target, Bill Campbell. Instead, in late 1999, when we received multiple, credible allegations of criminal activity in the City of Atlanta Government that Mayor Campbell led, we began a thorough investigation of those crimes. Over the years that investigation led to felony convictions of more than a dozen City contractors and senior city officials, [including not only the Mayor but his Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer.] Despite the breadth and importance of these results, the investigation and prosecution of these cases was conducted by just a small team – a handful -- of prosecutors and agents. We had a few dedicated, hard-working, and skillful public servants devoted to this case, but we never had an army. We should all thank them today for their service.

Bill Campbell may believe that he has been the center of our universe, and his case was indeed important because of the position he held, the criminal conduct he engaged in, and the public interest in the case. But let me give you some perspective on our real universe: In the six and a half years since the City corruption investigation began, federal agents in this district have investigated, and my office has charged, prosecuted, and convicted, well over 6000 other defendants on federal felony charges. Like them, Bill Campbell broke the law, and like most of them, he is going to prison. And we are going back to work.”

FBI Special Agent In Charge Greg Jones said, “Today’s sentence should send a strong message to elected and appointed officials that there are severe consequences for using your office for criminal activity. These are challenging and very difficult cases to investigate, but the FBI will continue to pursue these cases which are so vital to the public trust and honesty in government.”

IRS Special Agent In Charge Rebecca Sparkman said in a statement today, “Public officials must comply with the same tax obligations as the citizens they were elected to serve. Let today's sentence against Bill Campbell be a message that no one is above the law. Any Public Official who violates our tax laws will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, whether the source of any unreported income is from legal or illegal activities.”

CAMPBELL was indicted on the charges in August, 2004. CAMPBELL was found guilty of three counts of tax fraud relating to false tax returns for the years 1997 through 1999. He was acquitted on RICO and other charges. According to the evidence at trial, from 1997 through 1999, CAMPBELL knowingly signed tax returns which he knew did not include a substantial amount of income. Evidence at trial established that CAMPBELL spent over \$68,000 in cash that was not withdrawn from his bank accounts

and not reported on his personal income tax returns. At sentencing, Judge Story found that CAMPBELL was responsible for obstructing justice by taking evidence from a government witness, and engaging in numerous sophisticated steps to conceal his unreported income.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the FBI and IRS-Criminal Investigation. First Assistant United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates and Assistant United States Attorneys Phyllis B. Sumner and Russell G. Vineyard prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias, United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, Chief, Criminal Division, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.