



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:
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Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: James R. Rosendall

FORMER SYNAGRO OFFICIAL PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BRIBERY

James R. Rosendall, 44, of Grand Rapids pleaded guilty today to one count of conspiracy to commit bribery before United States District Judge Avern Cohn, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Berg was joined in the announcement by Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service.

Rosendall participated in the bribery scheme between 2001 and 2008, when he worked on behalf of Synagro Technologies, Inc. to win approval of a sludge disposal contract with the City of Detroit.

Under the plea agreement with the government, Rosendall faces up to 11 months in federal prison and a fine of up to \$200,000.

Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, “James Rosendall pleaded guilty today to a conspiracy to bribe several officials of the City of Detroit. Although the court documents filed today contain detailed statements regarding Mr. Rosendall’s conduct, they do not specifically identify the officials, or other parties, who are alleged to have participated in this conspiracy because the specific charges relate only to Mr. Rosendall’s conduct, his intent to bribe, and his specific actions and the circumstances surrounding his carrying out of this intent. It should be kept in mind that it is possible for a defendant to be guilty of conspiring to bribe, and intending to give bribes, regardless of whether any government official knowingly and intentionally accepts a bribe. This is an ongoing federal criminal investigation. Unless public charges are actually lodged, it is irresponsible and unfair to speculate or assert that any particular public official, or any other person, is knowingly involved in any crime. Even after a person is charged, that person is presumed innocent under our system of justice. It is the policy of this office not to comment on pending criminal investigations, and this policy continues.”

The investigation of this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Michael Bullotta and Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark D. Chutkow.