



Department of Justice

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STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ON ATLANTA MAYOR BILL CAMPBELL CONVICTION

This is a good day for justice in the City of Atlanta. The Administration of Mayor Bill Campbell was corrupt at the highest levels, causing great harm to the city and its citizens during the late 1990's. After several years of obstructing and delaying our investigation and prosecution, over the last few weeks Mayor Campbell received what he has acknowledged was a fair trial, before a fair judge, and today's verdict was handed down by a fair jury representative of our community. **The jury's guilty verdicts today confirm that Mayor Bill Campbell was also a criminal. He is now a convicted felon and soon he will be going to prison.**

From the beginning we have said that this was a case that needed to be tried. The government did not set out to investigate, much less target, Bill Campbell. Instead, when we received multiple, credible allegations of corruption in the City of Atlanta Government that Mayor Campbell led, we began an investigation. That investigation has led to the conviction of more than a dozen City contractors and senior city officials on corruption-related charges, including Mayor Campbell's Chief Operating Officer, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer.

The investigation also led to extensive evidence against the Mayor, including two individuals who testified that they had given large cash bribes directly to Mayor Campbell, several other witnesses who said that they had passed bribes to the Mayor's close friends and associates understanding that they would be passed on to Mayor Campbell, and a pattern of financial transactions that could not be legitimately explained. Even his own defense counsel admitted in closing argument that the evidence made it "probable" that Mayor Campbell was guilty of the charges.

We could not in good conscience sit on or hide this evidence. Our professional duty required that it be presented in a trial to a jury to decide on behalf of our community. That jury has now spoken. They gave the Mayor the benefit of the doubt on the corruption charges, which were primarily based on the testimony of witnesses we acknowledged had baggage, for they had been involved in corruption themselves – although you should note that the jury did find Mayor Campbell guilty of one racketeering predicate offense – mail fraud related to misuse of his campaign funds.

But Mayor Campbell could not avoid the implications of the financial evidence – that he had no legitimate source for the large amounts of cash that he used to support his lifestyle, and that he failed to report that cash on his tax returns. The defense had no legitimate explanation for that – and although Bill Campbell has been talking to the media and public about his case for years. I say all this without any sense of joy or celebration. For 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 Atlanta would stand today had it not endured the crimes committed by and under Mayor Bill Campbell.

I want to thank the prosecutors who tried this case – Sally Yates, Phyllis Sumner, and Russell Vineyard -- their support staff, and the federal agents who investigated the case. They are a remarkable team who have always demonstrated incredible hard work, integrity, diligence, and skill. They are exemplary public servants, dedicated to justice, and they should be applauded for their professional conduct throughout this case.