



Fidelis Ogbu and Neacacha Joyner Were Indicted by a Federal Grand Jury Alleging Federal Criminal Charges of Extortion and Bribery

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:12 AM March 7, 2012

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on March 6, 2012 released the following:

“Two DeKalb County Public Works Officials Indicted for Extortion and Bribery

Private Construction Contractor Forced to “Pay to Play”

ATLANTA—FIDELIS OGBU, 59, and NEACACHA JOYNER, 40, both of DeKalb County, Georgia, were indicted today on federal charges of extortion and bribery. They are expected to be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge Gerrilyn G. Brill later this week.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, “The citizens of DeKalb County are entitled to employees who serve the public, not extort them. We will continue to vigorously prosecute public employees who abuse the public’s trust to line their own pockets.”

Brian D. Lamkin, special agent in charge, FBI Atlanta Field Office, stated, “The actions of the defendants, as alleged in this indictment, serve as the core definition of public corruption. Public officials who attempt to personally profit from others who are merely trying to engage the government in otherwise legitimate business will not be tolerated

and the FBI will continue its efforts in identifying, investigating, and presenting for prosecution those individuals engaged in such activity.”

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges, and other information presented in court: OGBU (an engineering supervisor) and JOYNER (a construction inspector) allegedly exploited their positions with the DeKalb County Department of Public Works to extort money from a private contractor hired to work on a sidewalk construction project. OGBU and JOYNER are charged with executing a “pay to play” scheme, in which they compelled the contractor to pay them off in order for the contractor to complete the project, to avoid unnecessary work delays, and to gain future projects.

On March 6, 2012, a federal grand jury returned separate indictments charging OGBU and JOYNER with extortion and bribery. The most serious of the charges (extortion) carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. In determining the actual sentence, the court will consider the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are not binding but provide appropriate sentencing ranges for most offenders.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment only contains charges. The defendant is presumed innocent of the

charges and it will be the government’s burden to prove the defendant’s guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

This case is being investigated by special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey W. Davis is prosecuting the case.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates, P.C.’s

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Douglas McNabb and other members of the U.S. law firm practice and write and/or report extensively on matters involving Federal Criminal Defense, INTERPOL Red Notice Removal, International Extradition and OFAC SDN Sanctions Removal.

The author of this blog is Douglas McNabb. Please feel free to contact him directly at mcnabb@mcnabbassociates.com or at one of the offices listed above.

Former Pontiac Schools Assistant Superintendent Jumanne Sledge Indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for Allegedly Taking District Funds and Money Laundering

McNabb Associates, P.C. (Federal Criminal Defense Lawyers)

Submitted at 9:17 AM March 7, 2012

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on March 6, 2012 released the following:

“Former Pontiac Schools Assistant Superintendent Indicted for Taking District Funds and Money Laundering

Former Pontiac Schools Assistant Superintendent Jumanne Sledge, 40, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, was charged in an indictment today with taking

\$236,000 in district funds and with money laundering, United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade announced today.

Joining McQuade in the announcement was FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew G. Arena.

The indictment charges that in 2010, Sledge committed program fraud upon the district, which annually receives more than \$10,000 in federal funding, by directing a district employee to write Sledge a vendor check in the amount of \$236,000 payable to “Leadership

Academy,” which Sledge deposited into an account which he controlled.

Approximately two months later, Sledge opened another account, where he deposited \$200,000 of the funds, which he then used to pay personal expenses.

If convicted, Sledge faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the program fraud count and up to 20 years and a fine of up to \$250,000.00 on the money laundering



FORMER

continued from page 1

count. The indictment also seeks forfeiture of more than \$236,000.

“Corruption in any form is a serious crime, but when a defendant steals from a school district, he robs children of funds intended for their education and their future,” McQuade said.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew Arena said, “This type of public corruption not only violates the trust of the community but also robs children of opportunity. The FBI is committed to stopping those who steal from our youth.”

The case was investigated by agents of the FBI and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Michael Buckley.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. It will be the government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.”

Douglas McNabb – McNabb Associates,
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