

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA :
 : Hon.
 :
 v. : Crim. No. 10-
 :
 PIERO L. ABBALLE, : 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) & § 2
 a/k/a "Peter L. Abballe" :
 :

I N F O R M A T I O N

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

- 1. At all times relevant to this Information:
 - a. Defendant PIERO L. ABBALLE (a/k/a "Peter L. Abballe," hereinafter "defendant ABBALLE") was the Construction Code Official for the City of Englewood, New Jersey. As Construction Code Official, defendant ABBALLE headed Englewood's Department of Building and Code Enforcement and was responsible for, among other things, ensuring that buildings complied with applicable regulations, enforcing the City's construction code, inspecting residences and businesses, and issuing Certificates of Occupancy for buildings within the City. Defendant ABBALLE also served as Construction Code Official for the Borough of Old Tappan, New Jersey.

b. There was a Cooperating Witness ("C.W.") who owned and controlled multiple residence and business properties in Englewood, which businesses were engaged in interstate commerce.

Extortion Under Color of Official Right

2. From in July 2009 to in or about April 2010, defendant ABBALLE engaged in a scheme to accept cash payments from the C.W. in exchange for the exercise of defendant ABBALLE's official action as specific opportunities arose.

3. It was part of the scheme that:

a. On or about July 9, 2009, defendant ABBALLE accepted a cash payment of approximately \$1,000 from the C.W.;

b. On or about November 23, 2009, defendant ABBALLE accepted a cash payment of approximately \$1,500 from the C.W.;

c. On or about February 3, 2010, defendant ABBALLE accepted a cash payment of approximately \$500 from the C.W.; and

d. Defendant ABBALLE accepted the cash payments from the C.W. in exchange for the exercise of official action in his capacity as Construction Code Official for the City of Englewood as specific opportunities arose, including performing and expediting inspections at business properties and residences, issuing and expediting Certificates of Occupancy on business properties and residences, and defendant ABBALLE's exercise of official action in other matters.

4. Defendant ABBALLE utilized a facility in interstate commerce, namely, a cellular telephone, to communicate with the C.W. in furtherance of the scheme.

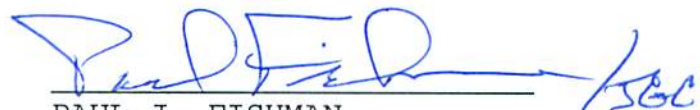
The Charge

5. From in or about July 2009 to in or about April 2010, in Bergen County, in the District of New Jersey, and elsewhere, defendant

PIERO L. ABBALLE,
a/k/a "Peter L. Abballe"

knowingly and willfully did attempt to obstruct, delay and affect interstate commerce by extortion under color of official right, that is, by obtaining money from another with consent in exchange for exercising and attempting to exercise official action and influence for the benefit of the C.W. as specific opportunities arose.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code,
Section 1951(a) and Section 2.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney

CASE NUMBER: _____

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

PIERO L. ABBALLE

INFORMATION FOR

18 U.S.C. § 1951(a) & § 2

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