



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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ROCKLAND COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONER  
PLEADS GUILTY TO ENGAGING IN SCHEME  
TO DEFRAUD THE PUBLIC

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that NATHAN ROTHSCHILD, a former Commissioner of a Rockland County Fire District (the "Fire District") pled guilty today to engaging in a mail fraud scheme through which he caused the Fire District to enter into a real estate transaction with a creditor of his in order to pay off a personal debt. ROTHSCHILD pled guilty to one count of mail fraud before United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS in White Plains federal court. ROTHSCHILD is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge KARAS on November 4, 2011.

Mr. BHARARA stated: "The public places its trust in elected officials and expects them to carry out their duties honestly and in the best interest of those they were elected to serve. This case should serve as a clear message that this Office and its law enforcement partners will not sit idly by while elected officials, at any level of government, violate that trust."

During his plea allocution, ROTHSCHILD admitted that, in an effort to pay off a personal debt owed to a creditor, ROTHSCHILD participated in a scheme in which the creditor was to purchase a parcel of real estate. ROTHSCHILD expected that the Fire District would purchase the real estate from the creditor at a higher price than the creditor had paid. ROTHSCHILD intended the creditor's profit to serve as partial payment of ROTHSCHILD's debt to the creditor.

As described during the plea proceedings, ROTHSCHILD did ultimately propose that the Fire District purchase the

property from the creditor, but ROTHSCHILD did not disclose his interest in the transaction. Rothschild expected to receive approximately \$125,000 as a result of the transaction.

Mr. BHARARA praised the outstanding investigative work of the FBI.

This case is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant United States Attorneys DOUGLAS B. BLOOM and MARGERY B. FEINZIG are in charge of the prosecution.

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