

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
401 Market Street, Fourth Floor  
Camden, New Jersey 08101

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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 19, 2008

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Member of Philadelphia Organized Crime Family Sentenced to  
66 Months in Prison for Interstate Travel in Aid of Racketeering

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(More)

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CAMDEN – A Cherry Hill man was sentenced to 66 months in federal prison today on one count of interstate travel in aid of racketeering for traveling to Philadelphia to threaten a man who he believed owed an illegal sports gambling debt, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman also ordered Vincent Filipelli, 55, to pay a fine of \$10,000 and to serve three years of supervised release upon the completion of his prison term. Filipelli has been held without bail since his arrest on Oct. 24, 2006, by Special Agents of the FBI's Philadelphia Division and the New Jersey State Police Organized Crime Bureau on federal and state charges.

A grand jury returned a one-count federal Indictment on Nov. 1, 2006. Filipelli pleaded guilty before Judge Hillman to the charge contained in the Indictment on April 27, 2007.

At his plea hearing, Filipelli admitted that he traveled from New Jersey to Pennsylvania with the intent of receiving money from another individual, who had been induced to pay the money through actual and threatened force, violence and fear. Filipelli admitted the payment was for the purpose of furthering an unlawful activity, namely a gambling enterprise.

According to a federal Complaint filed on Oct. 23, 2006, an investigation of Filipelli, a Philadelphia La Cosa Nostra Family member, began in August 2005. According to the Complaint, Filipelli was the focus of an illegal sports gambling investigation, which utilized two undercover N.J. State Police detectives. Filipelli admitted that he, believing that one of the detectives was an individual who owed him a gambling debt, threatened to put the undercover detective in the hospital for a year if the debt was not paid.

In sentencing the defendant, Judge Hillman denied Filipelli's request for a reduced sentence based on acceptance of responsibility despite the fact that Filipelli entered a guilty plea. Judge Hillman granted the government's motion for an upward departure from the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines based on Filipelli's involvement with the Philadelphia La Cosa Nostra, including his status as a made member of that criminal organization.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Hillman consulted the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Philadelphia Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Janice K. Fedarck, and the New Jersey State Police, under the direction of Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, Superintendent, with the investigation of Filipelli.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Steven D'Aguanno and Jacqueline Carle of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Donald F. Manno, Esq. Cherry Hill