



THE YEAR IN REVIEW (2013-2014)

Commission investigations with our law enforcement partners resulted in arrests of 100 individuals on state and federal charges as well as the seizure of over 20 kilos of heroin, 759 kilos of cocaine, 16 kilos of marijuana, 100,091 Oxycodone pills, 57 grams of Bath Salts and 20 grams of Crystal Meth as well as the seizure of over \$15 million in proceeds from drug transactions, loan sharking and illegal gambling and the recovery of 133 stolen vehicles about to be exported. The Commission worked with the following law enforcement agencies on investigations and prosecutions:

- U.S. Attorneys' Offices for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, and the District of New Jersey
- U.S. Department of Justice – Organized Crime and Gangs
- U.S. Department of Labor – Office of the Inspector General
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – El Dorado Task Force
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations
- U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration
- U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- New Jersey Attorney General's Office - Division of Criminal Justice
- New York County District Attorney's Office
- Queens County District Attorney's Office
- Richmond County District Attorney's Office
- Kings County District Attorney's Office
- Bergen County Prosecutor's Office
- Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office
- Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office
- New Jersey State Police
- New York City Police Department
- New Jersey State Commission of Investigation
- Leonia, New Jersey Police Department
- Newark, New Jersey Police Department
- Bayonne, New Jersey Police Department
- Essex County Sheriff's Office
- Hudson County Sheriff's Office
- New York State Workers' Compensation Board
- New York State Department of Financial Services
- New York State Health Department Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement
- New Jersey and New York BEST Teams
- The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Inspector General's Office
- The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Police Department



Workers' Compensation Board

WATERFRONT COMMISSION OF NEW YORK HARBOR CASE SUMMARY (2013-2014)

July 1, 2013: Pier Superintendent Suspended After His Arrest for Drugging a Woman and Possession of Ecstasy.



Port Newark Container Terminal pier superintendent Steven Colucci, Jr. was suspended by the Commission following his arrest on June 20, 2013. Colucci was charged with the felony of assault in the second degree for knowingly placing a drug, substance or preparation in the drink of a woman that was capable of producing a stupor, unconsciousness or other physical impairment. Colucci was also charged with possessing the controlled substance MDMA, commonly known as ecstasy. Colucci was temporarily suspended pending an administrative hearing on these charges. The Kings County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the criminal case.

August 5, 2013: Jersey City Police Officer Charged with Cargo Theft and Scheme to Rob Drug Courier.

A Jersey City, New Jersey police officer appeared in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to face charges that he stole more than 600,000 cigarettes from a trailer and conspired to rob \$20,000 from a drug courier. Mario Rodriguez was charged with one count of cargo theft and one count of conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act extortion under color of official right. He was released on a \$250,000 bond and confined to home incarceration with electronic monitoring. The complaint also charges Anthony Roman with the conspiracy and one count of Hobbs Act extortion. Roman was arrested on August 2, 2013, and appeared in court the same day. He was released on a \$250,000 bond.



According to documents filed in the case and statements made in court, on July 3, 2013, Rodriguez and a confidential informant (CI) drove to a warehouse in Secaucus to break into a trailer, steal cigarettes and sell the stolen goods to the CI's associate. Law enforcement agents had previously parked the trailer at the warehouse and established surveillance of the area. After using bolt-cutters to cut the lock off of the trailer, Rodriguez and the CI loaded 50 cases containing approximately 600,000 cigarettes and six televisions from the trailer into their vehicle. As they drove the stolen items to a parking lot in Staten Island, New York, Rodriguez made several phone calls seeking buyers for the TVs. The pair met the CI's associate – actually an undercover officer – in the parking lot to get the \$5,000 payment for the cigarettes. Rodriguez kept \$3,000 of the cash and three of the TVs. On July 10, 2013, Rodriguez, the CI and an undercover law enforcement agent met in New Jersey and discussed the possibility of robbing a drug courier, who was actually another undercover officer. On July 24, 2013, the group met again in Staten Island to discuss the plan. The undercover officer told Rodriguez the courier would be delivering cocaine to them that day in exchange for a \$20,000 payment. Rodriguez suggested a Jersey City mall parking lot due to an absence of surveillance cameras and called his associate, Roman to help him with the robbery.

Later that day, Rodriguez and Roman drove an SUV to the location where the CI and the drug courier were parked. Law enforcement agents had already established surveillance and staged the car containing \$20,000 cash in a plastic bag. Rodriguez and Roman approached the car and identified themselves as law enforcement officers who were investigating the CI. They pretended to arrest the CI, threatened to arrest the drug courier and took the cash. Later that day, Rodriguez, the CI and the undercover agent met in a hotel room at a Pennsylvania casino to split the cash. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

Sept. 12, 2013: Former Secretary Treasurer of Local 1233 Sentenced to Jail for Embezzlement of Union Funds.

Gregory “Ronnie” Taylor, the former Secretary Treasurer of ILA Local 1233, was sentenced in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to six months in jail, followed by six months of house arrest and three years of supervised release. Taylor was also ordered by the court to pay \$71,000 in restitution to Local 1233 for his role in the embezzlement of union funds. Taylor had pleaded guilty on February 6, 2013 to issuing a vacation check for \$7,852 to himself without authorization. Taylor also admitted that between 2007 and 2010, while secretary-treasurer, he embezzled a total of \$71,000 by improperly cashing duplicate paychecks, as well as other checks from the union’s operating account, including for unauthorized credit card expenditures. Taylor had been arrested on September 15, 2011 for stealing more than \$100,000 in union funds for his personal use. The case was investigated by the Waterfront Commission and the United States Department of Labor. The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey prosecuted the case.



Sept. 24, 2013: Longshoreman’s Registration Revoked After Conviction for Unlawful Possession of Firearm.

Longshoreman James J. Sweigart was arrested after he was observed in a diner with a loaded .9mm semi-automatic handgun in the waistband of his pants. Sweigart had no license for the handgun. The Commission temporarily suspended Sweigart’s registration as a longshoreman on January 22, 2013 pending an administrative hearing on the charge. Sweigart then pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm on July 15, 201 in New Jersey Superior Court, Essex County. On September 9, 2013, Sweigart was sentenced to 3 years’ probation, 25 hours of community service and ordered to surrender his waterfront registration with prejudice. The Commission accepted that surrender and revoked his registration as a longshoreman. The Essex County Prosecutor’s Office prosecuted the matter.



Oct. 16, 2013: Checker Sentenced to Jail for Conspiracy to Defraud the United States.

Checker Vincent J. Fusella, Jr. was sentenced in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York to two months in jail and ordered with his brother Gerardo Fusella to pay more than \$1 million in restitution. Vincent Fusella had pleaded guilty on February 27, 2013 to conspiracy to defraud the United States under the first count of his thirty-one count indictment. Fusella admitted to concealing wages and failing to pay FICA taxes to the IRS on behalf of workers at two trucking companies he and his brother Gerardo Fusella owned – The Fusella Group, LLC and Alpine Investment Group, Inc. His brother was also sentenced, and received a forty-six month prison sentence. Vincent Fusella was arrested on December 22, 2011 and his license as a checker was suspended by the Commission that date pending an administrative hearing on the charges in the indictment. The United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York prosecuted the criminal matter.



Nov. 5, 2013: Pier Superintendent's License Revoked for Refusal to Take Commission Ordered Drug Tests.



Red Hook Container Terminal probationary pier superintendent Thomas Griffith's license was revoked for refusing to take Commission-ordered urine and hair tests for drug use. He had previously been denied a pier superintendent's license in 2008 after it was found that he lacked the required good character and integrity because of prior drug use and false testimony about his drug use. In April 2012, on application of Red Hook Container Terminal, Griffith was issued a temporary, probationary license. Before permanent licensure, Griffith was ordered by the Commission to be tested for illegal drug usage, and had been advised that failure to appear would be considered a positive result and could result in the revocation of his license. He failed to appear. After a hearing on the charges, an administrative law judge found that Griffith failed to provide material evidence as required by the Commission, and lacked the requisite good character and integrity required of a pier superintendent. Citing his "historical penchant for fabrication by evasion" regarding his drug use, the administrative law judge recommended that Griffith's temporary license be revoked and that his application for a permanent license be denied. The Commission concurred.

Dec. 17, 2013: Checker Surrenders Registration with Prejudice Following Charges that He Refused to Answer Material Questions While on Probation for Cocaine Use and Committed Frauds by Failing to Disclose Associations with Members and Associates of Organized Crime.

The Commission ordered the removal of checker Albert Attanasio from the waterfront by accepting his withdrawal of application and surrender of registration with prejudice. Attanasio had been facing charges in an administrative hearing. Specifically, Attanasio was charged with using cocaine while on probation, and refusing to answer material questions during a Commission interview. He was also charged with committing fraud on his application for checker registration and in connection with a Commission interview by failing to disclose his knowledge of, and association with, members and associates of the Lucchese crime family.



Dec. 17, 2013: Commission Denies Request for Reinstatement of Checker who Sold Oxycodone, Purchased Drugs from a Longshoreman, Abused Oxycodone Prescriptions, Used Heroin, and Committed Frauds.



The Commission denied a request for reinstatement by checker Anthony Sellitti, who had been removed from the waterfront (decasualized) after failing to meet work and work availability requirements. The Commission found that Sellitti committed fraud, deceit, and misrepresentation in a sworn interview by failing to disclose that he and another longshoreman illegally sold oxycodone pills. He also committed fraud on his request for reinstatement in response to a question about his illegal use of drugs. The Commission found that Sellitti's abuse of oxycodone and his lack of commitment to rehabilitation indicated that he lacked good cause for reinstatement.

Dec. 17, 2013: Maintenance Man's Registration Revoked for Refusal to Take Commission-Ordered Drug Test. The Commission ordered the revocation of the registration of chassis mechanic Andre Tomaz as a maintenance man, after he refused to take a Commission-ordered hair test for drug use. Tomaz had been advised that failure to appear for the test would be considered a positive result and could result in the revocation of his registration. In 2012, the Commission had suspended Tomaz's registration as a maintenance man for fourteen days because, while registered as a maintenance man, he worked for a waterfront employer after using marijuana and cocaine. The Commission also found that he had operated a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. The Commission ordered that, after completion of his suspension, Tomaz would be subject to a year of random drug and alcohol tests at his own expense. Tomaz violated that order by refusing to submit to a hair test for drug use. After a hearing on the charges, an Administrative Law Judge found that Tomaz failed to provide material evidence as required by the Commission. The Commission concurred with this finding, and found that Tomaz presented a danger to the public peace or safety by refusing to submit to the hair test and committing this offense following his 2012 suspension. In light of the foregoing, the Commission revoked Tomaz's registration as a maintenance man.



Dec. 17, 2013: “Operation Shorething” Results in Arrests Of Nine Individuals Including Five Longshoremen in Pill Mill, Insurance Fraud and Gambling Rings. Nine individuals, including five longshoremen, were arrested on indictments after a twenty-month investigation dubbed “Operation Shore Thing” into insurance fraud, the fraudulent dispensing of prescriptions for controlled substances, sale and possession of oxycodone and illegal gambling. Longshoremen Steven Alcaras, Christopher Galasso, Rosario Savastano, Joseph Favuzza and crane operator Nicholas Tornabene were immediately suspended by the Commission after their arrests. A tenth target of the investigation, crane mechanic Frank Pastore, died of a drug overdose shortly before the arrests. In addition to the longshoremen, Mihir Bhatt, a pain management doctor, Thomas Dinardo, a chiropractor, Rita Patel, a pharmacist and Charles Tornabene, the brother of longshoreman Nicholas Tornabene were also indicted and arrested. The International Longshoremen’s Association submitted Charles Tornabene for prequalification as a longshoreman the week after his arrest and indictment. The Commission denied his request for prequalification.

“Operation Shore Thing” commenced in March 2012, and included the use of confidential sources, undercover police officers, electronic surveillance and physical surveillance. The Commission acted following the indictment and arrests of the aforementioned longshoremen by a Richmond County grand jury for participating in a wide-ranging “pill mill” operation in New York and New Jersey. The indictments allege that these longshoremen received oxycodone prescriptions in exchange for helping pain management physician Dr Mihir Bhatt, chiropractor Dr. Thomas Dinardo, pharmacist Rita Patel and others, get paid tens of thousands of dollars by the Management-International Longshoreman Association Healthcare Trust Fund (“MILA”), for medical services that were never provided. MILA is the joint industry-labor organization that provides health care benefits to deep sea longshoremen, and is funded by assessments on cargo being loaded and unloaded in the Port. The longshoremen’s participation in the criminal enterprise allowed them to obtain oxycodone without examinations and, often, without even going to the doctor’s office. They, along with former maintenance man Anthony Pastore, then used and/or distributed this oxycodone. Furthermore, they conspired to commit a variety of other crimes, such as filing fraudulent documents with the Commission. Alcaras managed appointments and the picking up of prescriptions of oxycodone, for the other, separately indicted longshoremen, who

received prescriptions for oxycodone without exams by Bhatt or after perfunctory visits to his offices. Alcaras communicated with both Bhatt and Dinardo about the suitability for inclusion or exclusion of individual longshoreman as patients. Alcaras also communicated with Bhatt and Dinardo when longshoreman were needed at one of Bhatt's offices for fraudulent exams to justify further fraudulent billing of insurance companies, or to receive fraudulent doctor's notes to avoid losing their registration as longshoreman.

In 2013, Galasso filed false instruments with the Commission in order to avoid being decasualized. Specifically, Alcaras and Galasso requested doctor's notes from Bhatt and Dinardo for medical treatment of Galasso that did not occur, and instructed them on how the notes should be written. In addition to participating in the insurance fraud, some of the longshoreman also evaded drug tests at work, learning about them beforehand and using devices like prosthetics, cleansing drinks and synthetic urine to try and pass the test. The investigation also uncovered that several of the longshoreman also went to work under the influence of narcotics. Nicholas Tornabene also engaged in selling drugs. Longshoreman Joseph Favuzza was charged in a separate indictment with ten counts of promoting gambling. Favuzza had been previously suspended by the Commission on June 25, 2012 for separate felony assaults in New York and New Jersey. Recovered during the execution of search warrants were \$3 million in assets, as well as 12 pounds of gold and a quantity of oxycodone.



Feb. 27, 2014: Twenty-Nine Charged in Takedown of International Carjacking/Theft Ring That Trafficked High-End Cars From New Jersey & New York to West Africa. Twenty-nine men were charged in the takedown of a major international carjacking and stolen car trafficking ring that stole luxury cars in New Jersey and New York and shipped them to West Africa, where they can sell for prices in excess of new market value in the United States. Twenty-three individuals were arrested as multi-agency teams executed warrants on charges including first-degree racketeering, carjacking and money laundering. Approximately 160 stolen cars worth more than \$8 million were recovered in “Operation Jacked,” a 10-month investigation led by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and the New Jersey State Police, assisted by The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Police, ICE Homeland Security Investigations, and other agencies including the Waterfront Commission. Approximately 140 of the cars were recovered at the Port where members of the ring delivered them for shipment. The ring targeted high-end vehicles, particularly luxury SUVs. Twenty-seven of the recovered vehicles had been taken in carjackings, a majority of which involved a gun or other weapon, while the others were stolen from various locations where the thieves were able to steal them with one or more of their electronic keys or key fobs, which are critical to the resale value of the cars. Seven were charged as leaders of the criminal enterprise. Within the ring, individuals filled various roles, including carjacker, car thief, wheel man, fence, shipper and buyer. Carjackers and thieves, who worked in “theft crews,” would typically be paid \$4,000 to \$8,000 for a stolen car by street-level fences, who sold cars up the chain to higher-level fences. Shippers would load the cars into shipping containers, which were taken to ports for transport by ship to West Africa.

After vehicles were stolen, the theft crew typically would store the cars at various locations, including various parking garages, residential backyards and warehouses, to make sure they were not equipped with tracking devices that would lead law enforcement to them. Other times, members of the ring removed tracking devices from the cars. After a vehicle was sufficiently “cooled,” it was moved to a “fence.” The stolen cars typically moved through at least two levels of fences before reaching their ultimate destinations. Fences often used “wheel men” to move the stolen cars to different locations while negotiating purchase prices with other fences and potential buyers. The wheel men would move cars to and from storage locations, to shipping locations, and to buyers. While some cars were sold domestically, including in New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Connecticut and Massachusetts, most of them were shipped overseas. Shippers arranged for the vehicles to be loaded into shipping containers and transported to ports. They completed false bills of lading, misrepresenting the contents of the containers. Of the roughly 160 vehicles recovered, 140 were recovered at the Port. Investigators believe that additional vehicles were being moved by this criminal enterprise, beyond those recovered in the investigation. The ring operated in multiple counties in New Jersey, including Essex, Union, Morris, Monmouth, Middlesex, and Bergen Counties.

March 11, 2014: Commission Denies Longshoreman’s Request for Reinstatement After Presenting Forged Doctor’s Notes and Committing Fraud in Interview. The Commission denied the request for reinstatement of longshoreman Craig Montgomery, who was previously decasualized in September 2013 for failing to meet his work requirements. In support of his request, Montgomery submitted several forged notes purportedly from his doctor to excuse his absences from the Port. These notes contained altered dates in an attempt to show he appeared at the doctor’s office on the dates in question when in fact he did not.

Furthermore, Montgomery committed fraud, deceit or misrepresentation during his sworn Commission interview, when he falsely testified about his purported doctor’s visits.





March 14, 2014: Brooklyn Woman Sentenced to More than Twenty-One Years in Prison for Shipment of More than \$2.5 Million Worth of Stolen Luxury Vehicles to Africa.

A Brooklyn, New York, woman was sentenced to 262 months in prison for her role as the leader of a ring responsible for shipping dozens of stolen and carjacked luxury cars and SUVs worth more than \$2.5 million from New Jersey to Africa. Hope K. Kantete was convicted on June 28, 2013 of ten counts of transportation of stolen vehicles in interstate or foreign commerce and a single count of conspiracy to transport stolen vehicles in interstate or foreign commerce. Kantete was convicted after a three-week trial in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey. The investigation revealed that Kantete employed other individuals who were responsible for purchasing stolen and carjacked vehicles from thieves operating in northern New Jersey and New York. Kantete then had individuals place new vehicle identification numbers on the stolen cars and create fraudulent title documents. After the documents were created, Kantete arranged to have the cars loaded onto shipping containers and sent to ports in West Africa. The cars could be re-sold in West Africa for at least twice their retail value in the United States. In addition to the prison term, Kantete was sentenced to three years of supervised release and ordered her to pay restitution of \$346,937, based on a loss estimated at \$2.5 million to \$7 million.

March 20, 2014: Suspended Longshoreman Pleads Guilty to Promoting Gambling.

Longshoreman Joseph Favuzza pleaded guilty to one count of promoting gambling in the second degree in Richmond County Supreme Court. Favuzza was previously indicted by a Richmond County grand jury, and arrested in December of 2013 as a part of "Operation Shore Thing," the joint investigation by the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, the NYPD Organized Crime Investigations Division, and Waterfront Commission into illegal gambling, insurance fraud, and oxycodone distribution on the docks and elsewhere. As a condition of his plea, Favuzza agreed to surrender of his registration as a longshoreman with prejudice. Favuzza had been suspended by the Commission since June 25, 2012 after his arrests on separate felony assaults in New York and New Jersey.



March 27, 2014: Five Individuals Charged with Conspiring to Fraudulently Obtain Union Job for Organized Crime Underboss' Son.

Five men were charged in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York with conspiring to defraud the Newspaper and Mail Deliverers' Union and Hudson News newsstands to obtain a union card and employment at the newsstands for the son of the alleged underboss of the Colombo family. A criminal complaint charged Benjamin Castellazzo Jr., Rocco Giangregorio, Glenn LaChance, Rocco Miraglia, aka "Irving," and Anthony Turzio, aka "the Irish Guy," with mail fraud conspiracy. In addition, a three-count indictment charged Thomas Leonessa, aka "Tommy Stacks," with wire fraud, wire fraud conspiracy and theft and embezzlement from employee benefit plans in an unrelated scheme.



Benjamin Castellazzo, Jr. Thomas Leonessa, Jr.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations and the Federal Bureau of Investigations, with assistance from the New York City Police Department, the New York County District Attorney's Office and the Waterfront Commission. The cases are being prosecuted by the U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime and Gangs Section.

April 8, 2014: Commission Denies Former ILA Local 1233 Secretary/Treasurer's Request for Reinstatement to the Longshoreman's Register After Embezzlement Conviction. The Commission denied the request for reinstatement by Gregory “Ronnie” Taylor, the former ILA Local 1233 Secretary/Treasurer (discussed above). Taylor was decasualized for failing to meet the work requirements. In support of his request, Taylor indicated that he failed to meet the work requirements because of his union responsibilities. The Commission denied Taylor’s request for his failure to present good cause, since Taylor abused his position and breached his fiduciary duty and obligations to the members of the ILA Local 1233.



April 22, 2014: Commission Revokes Longshore Registration of ILA Local 1588 President for Violating his Fiduciary Duty to the Union and Its Members and Conspiring to Illegally Possess and Use Oxycodone. The Commission ordered the revocation of the longshoreman registration of ILA Local 1588 President Virgilio Maldonado. Following a hearing, an administrative law judge found that Maldonado conspired with another longshoreman, who was a crane operator and member of ILA Local 1588, to illegally possess oxycodone. Although he was aware that his co-conspirator was using and distributing oxycodone, Maldonado failed to take official action, in violation of his fiduciary duty to ILA Local 1588 and its members. He further violated that duty by failing to take action when he believed that his co-conspirator reported to work as a crane operator under the influence of oxycodone, thereby placing members of ILA Local 1588 and others in danger. The ALJ also found that Maldonado illegally possessed and used oxycodone in 2011 and 2012, and determined that Maldonado’s continued presence on the piers constituted a danger to the public peace and safety. The Commission concurred with the ALJ’s factual findings and revoked Maldonado’s registration as a longshoreman. The revocation proceeding was the product of an investigation by the Leonia, New Jersey Police Department and the Waterfront Commission.

May 7, 2014: Warehouseman Suspended After Arrest for Shooting in “Drug Deal Gone Badly.” Warehouseman Derrick Smith was suspended by the Commission after he was arrested and charged with two counts of aggravated assault, possession of a weapon, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and conspiracy with intent to distribute prescription narcotics (oxycodone). Smith was arrested after what Belleville, New Jersey Police describe as “a drug deal gone badly,” which resulted in a gun fight. The victim was shot multiple times in the back and arm. The criminal case is being prosecuted by the Essex County Prosecutor. Smith’s registration is suspended pending the outcome of an administrative hearing.



May 7, 2014: Commission Denies Checker’s Request for Retention after Presenting Forged Doctor’s Note. The Commission denied the request for retention of checker Joseph Donnelly, after finding that he failed to present good cause for his failure to meet the requisite work requirements. Donnelly had been decasualized after failing to work, or making himself available to work, the required hours. In support of his request, Donnelly had submitted a fraudulent doctor’s note which falsely claimed that he was undergoing treatment.



Donnelly, as posted on Twitter, asleep while “at work” as a checker.



May 14, 2014: Longshoreman Pleads Guilty to Insurance Fraud and Two Counts of Conspiracy.

Longshoreman Christopher Galasso pleaded guilty to one count of insurance fraud, and two counts of conspiracy in the Richmond County Supreme Court. Galasso was one of those arrested on December 17, 2013, as part of “Operation Shore Thing,” the joint investigation detailed in this Report, above. Galasso admitted to being part of a conspiracy with other longshoremen to obtain oxycodone prescriptions in exchange for helping pain management physician Dr. Mihir Bhatt, and chiropractor Dr. Thomas Dinardo,

get paid tens of thousands of dollars by the Management-International Longshoreman Association Healthcare Trust Fund (“MILA”) for medical services that were never provided. Galasso conspired with indicted longshoremen Steven Alcaras, Bhatt, and Dinardo, to file false instruments with the Waterfront Commission. Alcaras helped Galasso obtain notes from Bhatt and Dinardo stating that Galasso was unable to work due to injuries for which he was under their care. In reality, Galasso had no such injuries and obtained the notes in order to avoid losing his registration as a longshoreman for failing to meet his work requirements. Galasso was suspended by the Commission since the date of his arrest. As a condition of his plea, Galasso has agreed to the surrender of his registration as a longshoreman with prejudice.

May 13, 2014: ILA Local 1235 Officials Plead Guilty in Extortion Conspiracy Involving Christmastime Tribute Payments.

Three former International Longshoremen’s Association union officials admitted that they conspired to extort ILA Local 1235 longshore workers on the New Jersey piers for Christmastime tribute payments on behalf of the



Genovese crime family. Vincent Aulisi, the president of ILA Local 1235 from approximately 2006 through 2007; Thomas Leonardis, the president of the union from approximately 2008 through 2011 and former ILA representative; and Robert Ruiz, the delegate of the union from approximately 2007 through 2010 and former ILA representative, entered their guilty pleas in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. During their guilty plea proceedings, Aulisi, Leonardis, and Ruiz admitted that they conspired with each other and others to compel tribute payments from ILA union members, who made the payments based on actual and threatened force, violence and fear. The timing of the extortions typically coincided with the receipt by various ILA members of “container royalty fund” checks, a form of year-end compensation. Leonardis and Ruiz were suspended from their positions following their arrest in

January 2011. Aulisi had already retired from his employment at the Port at the time of his arrest. Notably, shortly before his arrest, Leonardis had testified in front of a New Jersey State Senate Committee hearing that the Waterfront Commission was “as obsolete” as a longshoreman’s loading hook and merely perpetuated outdated stereo types of organized crime at the piers. The charge to which Aulisi, Leonardis, and Ruiz pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Offices for the Eastern District of New York and the District of New Jersey.



A representative for the longshoremen, Thomas Leonardis, president of ILA Local 1235, said the Waterfront Commission is as obsolete as this loading hook.

May 21, 2014: Former Longshoremen Plead Guilty In Extortion Conspiracy Involving Christmastime Tribute Payments.

Three former longshoremen admitted that they conspired to extort ILA Local 1235 members for Christmastime tribute payments. Salvatore LaGrasso, Michael Nicolosi, and Julio Porrao – all former supervisors on the New Jersey piers – pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. During their guilty plea proceedings, each admitted that they conspired with the other and others to compel tribute payments from ILA union members, who made the payments based on actual and threatened force, violence and fear. LaGrasso and Nicolosi were suspended by the Commission from their positions following their arrests. Porrao had already retired from his employment on the piers at the time of arrest. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Offices for the Eastern District of New York and the District of New Jersey.



Salvatore LaGrasso

Michael Nicolosi

Julio Porrao

May 28, 2014: Former Longshoremen Plead Guilty to Extortion Conspiracy Involving Christmastime Tribute Payments.

Two former longshoremen admitted that they conspired to extort others in ILA Local 1 and Local 1235 for Christmastime tribute payments, and an associate of the Genovese organized crime family charged in the same case also admitted running an illegal sports betting operation. Rocco Ferrandino and Michael Trueba – both former supervisors on the New Jersey piers – pleaded guilty to conspiring to extort union members. Richard Dehmer, an associate of the Genovese organized crime family, also pleaded guilty today to conspiring to operate, and operating, an illegal sports betting operation with others. Ferrandino, Trueba and Dehmer entered their guilty pleas in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. During their guilty pleas, Ferrandino and Trueba admitted they conspired with each other and others to compel tribute payments from ILA union members, who made the payments based on actual and threatened force, violence and fear. The timing of the extortions coincided with the receipt by certain ILA members of “Container Royalty Fund” checks, a form of year-end compensation. Ferrandino, the former head timekeeper at Maher Terminals, and Trueba, the former vice president of ILA Local 1235, were suspended from their positions by the Commission following their arrests in this case. The case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Offices for the Eastern District of New York and the District of New Jersey.



Rocco Ferrandino

Michael Trueba

May 30, 2014: Jersey City Police Officer Pleads Guilty to Transportation of Stolen Goods and Extortion.

Mario Rodriguez, the Jersey City, New Jersey police officer discussed in this Report, above, admitted stealing more than half a million cigarettes from a trailer and extorting \$20,000 from what he believed was a drug courier. Rodriguez pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to an information charging him with transportation of stolen goods and extortion under color of official right. The cargo theft and conspiracy to commit extortion charges to which Rodriguez pleaded guilty carry a maximum potential penalty of ten and twenty years in prison, respectively. Both counts also carry a maximum fine of \$250,000. Rodriguez has been suspended from the police department.

June 11, 2014: Contractor Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud. Contractor Raymond Norville of Orange, N.J., owner of RRL Unique Homes, Inc., a construction company, pleaded guilty in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey to conspiracy to commit wire fraud in connection with his defrauding a Bronx homeowner out of \$98,600.00.



Norville was originally investigated by the Waterfront Commission and the United States Department of Labor’s Office of the Inspector General in connection with his company’s contract with ILA Local 1233 to renovate its headquarters in Newark. An indictment handed down in August 27, 2012 charged that Norville conspired with the then Secretary-Treasurer, Gregory “Ronnie” Taylor to steal union funds by submitting fraudulent invoices for renovations at the local. The invoices were for work that was never actually performed, or that was double-billed or had grossly inflated costs. Former Local 1233 Secretary-Treasurer Taylor pleaded guilty to Embezzling Union Funds under a separate indictment. Norville’s plea grew out of the original investigation into the fraudulent billing of Local 1233. The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey.

June 23, 2014: Lasher Removed from Waterfront for Association with Members of Organized Crime and Fraud on His Application. The Commission ordered the removal of lasher Francis Mangano, Jr. from the waterfront by accepting his withdrawal of application and surrender of registration with prejudice. That acceptance has the same effect as a revocation. The Commission had administratively charged Mangano with presenting a danger to the public peace or safety because of his association with convicted racketeers, capos, soldiers, and associates of the Bonanno and Colombo Crime Families, including Bonanno Capos Peter Lovaglio and Anthony “Bruno” Indelicato; Colombo Capo Joseph Amato and Bonanno Soldiers Anthony “Ace” Aiello and “Big Frank” Pastore. Mangano had also been charged with committing fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in connection with his application for registration by failing to disclose his association with Bonanno capo Peter Lovaglio, which predated the filing of his application.



Longshoreman
Francis Mangano, Jr.

Bonanno Capo
Peter Lovaglio

Bonanno Capo
Anthony “Bruno” Indelicato

Colombo Capo
Joseph Amato

Bonanno Soldier
Anthony “Ace” Aiello

Bonanno Soldier
“Big Frank” Pastore