

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
District of New Jersey

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Essex County Man Sentenced to Two Years in Prison for Bribing Mail Carriers to Deliver Parcels Containing Marijuana

NEWARK, N.J. – An Essex County, New Jersey, resident was sentenced today to 24 months in prison for bribing mail carriers from the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to deliver to him parcels containing marijuana, U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito announced.

Glenn Blackstone, 50, of Newark, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Esther Salas to an information charging him with one count of giving bribes and one count of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. Judge Salas imposed the sentence today in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

From October 2014 to September 2017, Blackstone purchased marijuana from a conspirator, who produced the marijuana in California and shipped it in parcels to New Jersey. On multiple occasions, Blackstone bribed two USPS mail carriers to remove the parcels from the normal delivery stream and deliver them instead to him at various locations in Newark. These parcels had fictitious names and addresses on them and were not addressed directly to Blackstone. After receiving the packages from the mail carriers and paying the bribes, Blackstone then sold the marijuana to others in Newark.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Salas sentenced Blackstone to five years of supervised release.

One of the mail carriers, Leonard Gresham, 52, of Rahway, New Jersey, also was sentenced by Judge Salas today to three years of probation for taking bribes from Blackstone. Another mail carrier, Fred Rivers, 47, of Newark, was sentenced to three years of probation with a condition of one year of home confinement by Judge Salas on Jan. 23, 2020 for his role in the bribery scheme.

U.S. Attorney Craig Carpenito credited special agents with the USPS-Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Matthew Modafferi, Northeast Area Field Office, and inspectors of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector in Charge James Buthorn, with the investigation leading to today's sentencing.

The government is represented by Lee M. Cortes Jr., Chief of the Health Care Fraud Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Farrell of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Special Prosecutions Division.

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