



# This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

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## Former Council Member Admits to Accepting \$55,000 in Bribes

Michael Brown, a former member of the D.C. Council, pled guilty earlier this month to a charge of bribery for a scheme in which he accepted a total of \$55,000 in a series of meetings, spanning eight months, with undercover WFO agents posing as officials of a company that purportedly wanted to win government contracting opportunities. Brown is the third member of the D.C. Council to plead guilty within the past two years to federal charges involving crimes committed while they were in office. Brown admitted taking the cash payments in return for his assistance in winning the D.C. government's approval for a company that was seeking to be classified as a Certified Business Enterprise, a designation that would create potentially lucrative business opportunities. Brown agreed to help the company with government contracting opportunities. Brown also admitted concealing the true source of \$20,000 that was secretly contributed to his failed bid in 2007 for a seat on the D.C. Council. [Read more](#) about this bribery scheme.



Surveillance photo of Brown accepting a bribe payment.

## Executive Director of Non-Profit Admits Using More Than \$200,000 in Grants for Personal Use

This month, Keely Thompson Jr., executive director of Keely's District Boxing and Youth Center, pled guilty to wire fraud stemming from a scheme in which he spent D.C. and private grant funds, meant for youth programs and activities, on personal goods, entertainment and services. The grant money that his boxing and youth center received was to be used to carry out the boxing program's mission of promoting youth development. Thompson admitted to improperly using \$205,000 of the funds. His spending included \$105,000 for gambling at a casino in Atlantic City, N.J. and on a cruise ship; \$50,000 for meals at restaurants, purchases at grocery stores, concerts, speeding tickets and clothing; and an additional \$50,000 on other unauthorized expenditures.

## Two Pimps Sentenced for Sex Trafficking of Minors

Edwin Barcus, Jr., and Joshua Dumas, also known as "Hitman," were sentenced this month for conducting a Child Exploitation Enterprise. Barcus was sentenced to 25 years in prison and Dumas was sentenced to more than 19 years in prison. Around 2007, Barcus founded an enterprise that prostituted at least seven minor girls and over twenty-three adult females in multiple states. The two posted advertisements on Backpage.com and customers would meet the victims at hotels for sex. Barcus and Dumas used force, drugged and threatened their victims and carried firearms to prevent competing pimps from "stealing" their girls. Barcus would also contact prostitutes to attempt to recruit them, and if they refused, he would steal their money.

## Man Pleads Guilty to Pirating Rosetta Stone Software

Earlier this month, Christopher Adkins pled guilty to felony criminal copyright infringement in connection with the sale of counterfeit copies of Rosetta Stone language-learning software. For more than three years, Adkins admitted to selling more than \$100,000 in copyright-infringing computer software through the website Learningpartners.mybisi.com, operated from his home in Aurora, Ill. Adkins admitted that he downloaded pirated versions of Rosetta Stone language-learning products, including Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, Italian, German and Korean, and would copy the programs onto compact discs. He would then sell the discs to online customers for prices more than 50 percent of the manufacturer's suggested retail price for legitimate product.

## Businessmen Plead Guilty to Violating Campaign Finance Law

Twice this month, businessmen have pled guilty to knowingly and willfully permitting their names and the names of their relatives to be used to conceal the true source of campaign contributions made to federal, D.C. and other political campaign committees and political action committees. Lee Calhoun, an executive for a Washington, D.C.-based company, admitted that between June 2002 and June 2011, he participated in a scheme in which he and others helped disguise the actual source of more than \$150,000 in campaign contributions. In a similar case, Stanley Straughter, the owner of a business based in Philadelphia, Pa., admitted that between Jan. 2006 and Feb. 2012, he concealed the actual source of more than \$125,000 in campaign contributions. Both cases caused various campaigns and political action committees to file reports with the Federal Election Commission that did not reveal the true source of the unlawful campaign contributions.

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