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SELF-STYLED PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBING WITNESS

Co-Defendant Pleaded Guilty Previously And Currently Serving Nine and a Half Years in Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 55-year-old Bronx private investigator has pleaded guilty to bribing a witness between February 2013 through April 2015. The defendant - working with a man charged with illegally possessing a gun - attempted to pay off as well as to intimidate and coerce the victims in the gun case from testifying against the accused.

District Attorney Brown said, "Witnesses of crimes must be protected from outside interference that might affect their testimony. My office will not tolerate the intimidation of, or tampering with, witnesses and is committed to the vigorous prosecution of those who engage in such conduct."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Charles Gallman, 55, of Metropolitan Avenue in the Bronx. The defendant, who purports himself to be a private investigator, pleaded guilty today to bribing a witness before Queens Supreme Court Justice Joseph Zayas, who indicated that he will sentence Gallman to 1 to 3 years in prison.

Gallman's co-defendant, Frederick Freeman, 30, pleaded guilty to the original gun case as well as the witness tampering charge in May of 2016, before Justice Zayas. On September 12, 2016, Freeman was sentenced to nine and a half years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that over the course of a long-term investigation various investigative techniques were utilized, including court-authorized eavesdropping, controlled telephone calls, the subpoenaing of telephone records and listening to recorded phone conversations from Rikers Island.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges in the underlying case, Freeman and his girlfriend, Raneisha Williams, then 23, went to the Jamaica, Queens, apartment of Williams' brother on January 30, 2013, and knocked on the door. The brother refused to open the door. Looking through the peephole, he saw Freeman and noticed his hand in his waistband and only then did he open the door. Defendant Freeman then raised a silver firearm from his waistband and pointed it toward the victim and ordered the man to back up so that he and Williams could enter. But, the young man quickly closed the door instead, locked it and called 911.

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When police arrived at the Guy Brewer Boulevard address, they found Freeman and Williams in an apartment bedroom three floors below. Police recovered the black handbag that the woman was carrying from under the bed and within the purse a defaced silver .380 caliber pistol loaded with one cartridge in the chamber and two in the magazine was found.

Freeman and Williams were each charged with second- and third-degree criminal possession of a weapon. On May 14, 2014, Williams pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal possession of a weapon and was subsequently sentenced to three and one-half years in prison. The case against Freeman was pending when he and Gallman working together between February 1, 2013, and April 1, 2015, tried to bribe, intimidate and tamper with witnesses slated to testify against Freeman in the gun case.

Specifically, said the District Attorney, according to the indictment, Freeman and Gallman engaged in acts intended to instill fear in the victim - the brother of defendant Williams - as well as his family members. They implied the victim and family members would be physically injured if he or any of them testified or cooperated with the District Attorney's Office about the events of January 30, 2013.

According to the charges, said District Attorney Brown, Freeman contacted witnesses and members of the witnesses' family and spoke with Gallman by telephone from Rikers Island about offering bribes and tampering and intimidating witnesses. Gallman did contact the victim and a member of his family in person and over the phone in an effort to tamper with, bribe and/or intimidate the two.

The investigation was conducted by Sergeants Daniel M. O'Brien and Steven M. Brown and Detectives Robby Chin and Richard Santangelo, of District Attorney Brown's Detective Bureau, under the supervision of Chief Investigator Franco Russo and Deputy Chief Investigator Robert J. Burke.

Additional assistance was provided by Assistant District Attorney Melissa A. Kelly, of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, and by Assistant District Attorney Bradley H. Chain, of the District Attorney's Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau, which is under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gerard A. Brave, Bureau Chief, and Catherine C. Kane and Mark L. Katz, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Peter A. Crusco.

Assistant District Attorney Kelly, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Kenneth M. Appelbaun, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, and Debra Lynn Pomodore and Eric C. Rosenbaum, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders and Deputy Executive Assistant for Major Crimes Brad A. Leventhal

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