The United States Attorney's Office

Southern District of Florida

Press Release

POMPANO CONSTRUCTION COMPANY OWNERS SENTENCED IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION, TAX, AND MAIL FRAUD CONSPIRACY

March 25, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, Daniel W. Auer, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, and Richard Walker, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, announced that U.S. District Judge Patricia A. Seitz today sentenced defendants **Mario Turcotte** and **Daniel Paul O'Brien** to 60 months' and 33 months' imprisonment, respectively, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release.

Turcotte and O'Brien are partners in Powertech Interiors, Inc., a drywall installation and cabinetry company located in Pompano

Public Affairs Office:

Alicia Valle
Special Counsel to the U.S. Attorney
(305) 961-9153

Public Affairs Fax
(305) 530-7055

Beach, Florida. They pled guilty in December 2008 to a tax and mail fraud conspiracy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, arising out of a scheme to underpay its federal income tax and workers' compensation insurance premiums by maintaining numerous employees as "off-the-books" workers (Case No. 08-20911-CR-SEITZ).

From approximately December 2001 to August 2007, Turcotte and O'Brien paid Powertech's "off-the-books" employees' wages in cash, thus under-reporting the company's taxable wages. By under-reporting taxable wages, the defendants avoided paying the actual employment taxes due and owing to the IRS. In addition, the defendants evaded paying workers' compensation insurance for Powertech's "off-the-books" employees by mailing the under-reported payroll figures to its insurance carrier, which used these fraudulent payroll figures to assess a lower insurance premium for Powertech.

Mr. Acosta commended the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation Division and the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey E. Tsai.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov.

Technical comments about this website can be e-mailed to the Webmaster. PLEASE NOTE: The United States Attorney's Office does not respond to non-technical inquiries made to this website. If you wish to make a request for information, you may contact our office at 305-961-9001, or you may send a written inquiry to the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, 99 NE 4th Street, Miami, Fl. 33132.

Department of Justice | USA.gov | Privacy Policy | Project Safe Neighborhoods | PSN Grants | www.regulations.gov | Legal Policies and Disclaimers