



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

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SIX DEFENDANTS MUST STAND TRIAL FOR LYING TO GRAND JURY

RIVERSIDE – Today, Sept. 10, 2010, a Riverside County Superior Court judge found there is enough evidence for six people to stand trial on a variety of charges, including perjury for lying to a criminal grand jury investigating political corruption in the city of San Jacinto.

All six defendants are charged with conspiracy to make campaign contributions in a false name, making a campaign contribution as an intermediary, and perjury for lying to the grand jury. They each face a maximum of four years, eight months in state prison.

“This office takes lying to a criminal grand jury very seriously,” District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. “These six defendants allowed themselves to become involved in a massive case of political corruption.”

Charged in the case are: Shanda Lynn Mansperger, DOB: 6-22-75, of San Jacinto; Christopher Ray Mason, DOB: 4-10-84, of San Jacinto; Marcia Lynn Mathews, DOB: 6-10-66, of Hemet; Kirk William Mathews, DOB: 10-9-59, of Hemet; Carol Ann Gehrum, DOB: 1-19-41, of San Jacinto; and John Richard Gehrum, DOB: 1-11-69, of Hemet.

After hearing evidence in the case during a preliminary hearing held on Aug. 27, 2010, Judge Thomas Kelly today ruled there was enough evidence for all six to stand trial.

According to the evidence, each of the defendants made contributions in November 2007 to the campaign to elect James Ayres to the 65th Assembly district. These contributions were made nearly 18 months after Ayres was defeated in the 2006 Republican primary. The campaign committee used the money contributed by these six defendants to repay James Ayres for his loans to the committee. The six defendants made cash deposits into their personal bank accounts nearly equal to their contributions to the Ayres campaign committee within days of writing checks to the committee.

Each of the six defendants testified before the grand jury saying that they were not reimbursed for their contributions. However, the evidence presented to the grand jury shows that each of the six defendants was reimbursed for those contributions.

Late last year, a 155-count grand jury indictment against nine other people was unsealed. Among the nine charged were four of the five current San Jacinto City Council members including then-Vice Mayor John Mansperger and Councilman James Ayres. Also charged is Ayres’ wife, Nancy, who is a trustee on the San Jacinto Unified School District board.

The evidence in that case shows that the council members and various campaign contributors who also have been charged had been engaged in a conspiracy to launder campaign funds into campaign committees including those of Nancy Jo Ayres for school board and the 2006 primary election for James Ayres in the 65th Assembly District.

The trial in that case is still pending, scheduled to begin early next year.

Shanda Mansperger is John Mansperger's wife, Christopher Mason is John Mansperger's nephew, Marcia Mathews is John Mansperger's sister and Kirk Mathews is John Mansperger's brother-in-law. Carol Gehrum is the mother of Nancy Ayres and John Gehrum is Nancy Ayres' brother.

This perjury case, RIF154696 -- as well as the case against the previously charged nine defendants, RIF153642 -- are each being prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Michael Cabral and Deputy District Attorney Deborah Lucky.

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