



ATTORNEY GENERAL GEORGE JEPSSEN

SETTLEMENT REACHED WITH JAMES GALANTE OVER ILLEGAL SCHEME IN WASTE DISPOSAL INDUSTRY

For immediate release

THURSDAY APRIL 14, 2011

HARTFORD – Attorney General George Jepsen today announced the settlement of an unfair trade practices and antitrust lawsuit against James E. Galante, the former owner of waste disposal companies operating in the Danbury area.

Under terms of the settlement, the state received \$600,000 to be distributed to an estimated 500 commercial customers of Galante’s former companies: Automated Waste Disposal, Inc. and Thomas Refuse Services Inc. The state sued Galante in 2009 for alleged violations of the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act and the Connecticut Antitrust Act.

The lawsuit alleged that in 2002 and 2004, Galante ordered his employees at AWD and Thomas to raise prices by 10 percent for certain commercial customers under the false representation that they were mandatory increases for disposal-site costs. The lawsuit also alleged two incidents of bid-rigging by American Disposal Services of Connecticut, another Galante-owned company, in attempts to secure waste-hauling contracts.

The settlement was timed to the federal government’s sale of these and other companies forfeited by Galante as part of his 2008 guilty plea to federal racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and wire-fraud conspiracy for his role in orchestrating a scheme to drive up trash-removal prices.

“I am pleased that this settlement will help to compensate customers injured by Galante’s illegal schemes,” Jepsen said.

Jepsen praised the assistance the Office of the United State Attorney for the District of Connecticut, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation Division provided his office. “This case demonstrates clearly the benefits of federal/state coordination to protect the people of Connecticut. I hope to continue our close cooperation in other cases,” Jepsen said.

Assistant Attorneys General Gary Becker and Laura Martella, Forensic Fraud Examiners David Boucher and Lawrence Marini, and paralegal Lori Measer handled the investigation and litigation under the direction of Assistant Attorney General Michael Cole, chief of the Antitrust Department.

View the [Settlement](#) with James Galante – (PDF-6MB)

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