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NEWS RELEASE
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FOUR FORMER BEAUMONT CITY OFFICIALS PLEAD GUILTY IN CORRUPTION CASE

RIVERSIDE – Four of the remaining five defendants charged in the Beaumont political corruption case entered guilty pleas and were sentenced today, Dec. 19, 2017.

Alan Kapanicas, David Dillon, Ernest Egger, and William Aylward all pled guilty to various felonies and were sentenced by Riverside County Superior Court Judge Mac Fisher at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. Two other defendants, former Director of Public Works Deepak Moorjani and former Police Chief Francis Coe pled guilty in October 2017. Moorjani was ordered to pay \$3 million in restitution to the city. The remaining defendant in the case, Joseph Sandy Aklufi, has a preliminary hearing scheduled for Feb. 22, 2018.

“This is an important step in bringing justice to the people of Beaumont,” District Attorney Mike Hestrin said. “The fact that all these pleas also involve more than \$11 million in restitution to the city, to be paid forthwith from the assets previously frozen by the DA’s Office, is significant. The success of this prosecution would not have been possible without the cooperation of the City of Beaumont and the Western Riverside Council of Governments.”

Kapanicas, DOB: 7-7-52, the former City Manager for the City of Beaumont, pled guilty to one felony count of embezzlement of public funds (Penal Code section 504/514) as well as one felony count of misappropriation of public funds (Penal Code section 424). He was placed on three years of formal probation and ordered to serve one year of custody to be served with electronic monitoring. Kapanicas was ordered to pay \$1 million in restitution to the City of Beaumont.

Dillon, DOB: 8-19-53, Beaumont’s former Director of Economic Development, pled guilty to one felony count of conflict of interest (Government Code section 1090) and one felony count of embezzlement of public funds. Dillon was placed on three years of formal probation and ordered to serve one year of custody to be served with electronic monitoring. Dillon is required to pay \$4 million in restitution to the City of Beaumont.

Egger, DOB: 12-21-56, Beaumont’s former Director of Planning, pled guilty to one felony count of conflict of interest. He was placed on three years of formal probation and ordered to serve six months of custody with electronic monitoring. Egger was also ordered to pay \$3 million in restitution to the City of Beaumont.

Aylward, DOB: 1-13-63, Beaumont’s former Finance Director, pled guilty to embezzlement of public funds as well as one felony count of misappropriation of public funds and was placed on three years of formal probation. Aylward was ordered to serve one year of custody to be served with electronic monitoring and ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution.

Kapanicas, Dillon, Egger, and Aylward now are all barred for life from holding any public office in California.

Each of the defendants acknowledged their role in the widespread scheme to divert transportation fees from the proper regional authority for personal profit. Dillon and Egger admitted that they had a conflict of interest in serving as public officials while directing work to their private company, Urban Logic Consultants. Kapanicas and Aylward acknowledged that they were providing interest free loans to City employees and a private corporation.

The case, RIF1602262, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Emily Hanks and Amy Barajas of the DA’s Public Integrity Team.