



NEWS

**Guilty pleas in MTA scam**

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487 words

23 September 2004

Newsday

CITY

A15

English

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A reputedly mob-connected plumbing contractor, his wife and son pleaded guilty yesterday in a scheme to rip off millions of dollars from the MTA.

Alex Figliolia Sr., 60, president of the Alex Figliolia Plumbing Co. in Brooklyn, his son, Alex Figliolia Jr., 31, a vice president at the company, and the elder's wife, Janet Figliolia, 54, an office manager, overcharged the Metropolitan Transportation Authority for six maintenance and repair jobs between 1998 and 2002, prosecutors said. The company received \$18.7 million for jobs that were estimated to be worth up to \$10 million less.

The father and son pleaded guilty to enterprise corruption, bribery, grand larceny and money laundering in State Supreme Court in Manhattan yesterday. Janet Figliolia pleaded guilty to bribery.

The trio paid kickbacks to MTA employees, billed the agency \$65 an hour for plumbers while actually using \$8-an-hour laborers and overcharged for supplies.

Three MTA employees also have pleaded guilty in connection with the case.

As part of the Figliolias' plea deals, the son is expected to get 2 3/4 to 8 1/4 years in state prison, while his father will receive 1 3/4 to 5 1/4 years. Janet Figliolia is expected to get 5 years of probation. Sentencing was set for Jan. 5. The Figliolias were charged in a 116-count indictment. If convicted at trial, the enterprise corruption charge alone carried a sentence of 8 1/3 to 25 years in prison.

The Figliolias promised to make restitution of \$6 million and forfeit \$750,000 in jewelry. They also must file amended state and federal tax returns for 1999 through 2001.

Prosecutors say the Figliolias spent the money on a \$3.8-million renovation of their home in Holmdel, N.J.

The plea deal means the Figliolias will not be prosecuted for allegedly submitting false payrolls to the city School Construction Authority from 1994 to 2002, and the son will not face charges for allegedly bribing a city water main inspector.

"The plea gives them the ability to get on with their lives and get back in business," said **Joseph Tacopina**, who defended the elder Figliolia.

Assistant District Attorney Daniel Castleman said the felony conviction means the Figliolias will be barred from any public contracts.

Prosecutors have said the elder Figliolia is a business associate of Alan Longo, a reputed captain in the Genovese crime family.

Staff writer Joshua Robin contributed to this story.

Newsday photos/Alejandra Villa - 1) Alex Figliolia Jr. follows his stepmother, Janet, out of court yesterday after the pair, along with 2) Alex Figliolia Sr., right, pleaded guilty in a scheme to steal millions from the MTA. 3)