

The Virgin Islands Consortium

PR Man Charged For Providing Kickbacks In Connection With Federal Subcontracts For Work On St. Croix Courthouse, PR Coast Guard Facilities

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ST. THOMAS -- United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert for the District of the Virgin Islands announced today that Reinaldo Cruz Taura, president of Puerto Rico-based RCT Mechanical Engineering, was charged with providing kickbacks in connection with federal government subcontracts to perform work on the federal building and courthouse in St. Croix and on coast guard facilities in Puerto Rico.

According to the Information filed in the case, from June 2011 through June 2015, Taura paid over \$1.2 million in kickbacks to a senior project manager for the prime contractor

on the St. Croix and Puerto Rico projects. The Information also alleges that Taura falsely inflated the expenses billed under the subcontract in order to cover the costs of the aforementioned kickbacks.

This case is being investigated by the General Services Administration–Office of the Inspector General, the Department of Veterans Affairs–Office of the Inspector General, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the USDA–Office of the Inspector General, the Coast Guard Investigative Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan Brooks.

United States Attorney Shappert reminded the public that an Information is merely a formal charging document, and it is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless found guilty.

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