



*United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey*

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**FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JERSEY CITY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS GETS 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR STEALING MORE THAN \$250,000**

NEWARK, N.J. - A Jersey City, New Jersey, man was sentenced today to 18 months in prison for stealing more than \$250,000 from the Jersey City Child Development Centers Inc. (JCCDC), an organization that provided early childhood development services and education to under-privileged children, Acting U.S. Attorney William E. Fitzpatrick announced.

Robert E. Mays, 40, previously pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton to an information charging him with one count of wire fraud. Judge Wigenton imposed the sentence today in Newark federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Mays was the executive director of JCCDC from Sept. 2013 to May 2014. Mays admitted that he stole more than \$250,000 from JCCDC by unilaterally increasing his annual salary from \$96,500 to \$155,000 after being employed by JCCDC for only two months. He also admitted that he created false board of director's minutes to give the impression JCCDC authorized the salary increase.

In addition, Mays admitted he withdrew funds from a JCCDC bank account to pay for unauthorized personal expenses, including a 2007 Maserati Quattroporte and a fur coat worth thousands of dollars.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Wigenton sentenced Mays to three years of supervised release and ordered him to pay restitution of \$257,418.20.

Acting U.S. Attorney Fitzpatrick credited special agents of the FBI, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Timothy Gallagher, and special agents of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Scott J. Lampert, with the investigation. He also thanked the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Esther Suarez, for its assistance.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark J. McCarren of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division and Sarah Devlin of the Office's Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Unit in Newark.

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Defense counsel: Alexander W. Booth Jr., Union City, New Jersey