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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jeffery Pietrzyk, Sr. Accepts Responsibility for his Role in CHR Scheme

Ann Arbor, Michigan, October 22, 2019 – Jeffery Pietrzyk, Sr. of Grand Island, New York, pleaded guilty to a two-count criminal information charging him with conspiracy to commit honest services fraud and money laundering. The charges relate back to Mr. Pietrzyk’s time as Administrative Assistant to the General Motors Center for Human Resources (CHR) in Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Pietrzyk held his position at the CHR from 2010 until he retired in July 2014.

Mr. Pietrzyk entered his pleas of guilty this afternoon in Ann Arbor before United States District Judge Bernard A. Friedman. At the plea hearing, Mr. Pietrzyk admitted that when his boss at the CHR – the UAW Vice President in the General Motors Department and Director of the CHR – approached him and requested Mr. Pietrzyk’s assistance with obtaining kickbacks from two vendors who produced jackets and watches, Mr. Pietrzyk agreed to help his boss do this.

In 2011, Mr. Pietrzyk helped funnel kickbacks from a jacket vendor to the UAW VP and Director of the CHR. In exchange for Mr. Pietrzyk’s help, the UAW VP and Director of the CHR paid Mr. Pietrzyk a \$30,000.00 portion of the \$300,000.00 kickback he received. In 2013, Mr. Pietrzyk helped a watch vendor with his bid submission and helped the vendor funnel kickbacks to the UAW VP and Director of the CHR. In exchange for Mr. Pietrzyk’s help, the vendor paid Mr. Pietrzyk a \$70,000.00 portion of the kickback received by his boss at the UAW VP and Director of the CHR’s direction, and Mr. Pietrzyk paid \$25,000.00 of his share of the kickback to Michael Grimes, another UAW Senior Official who worked at the CHR and who had involvement in the scheme. The jackets and watches were purchased for distribution to union members and others who worked at offices and plants owned by General Motors.

Pietrzyk’s attorney, Robert C. Singer, Esq., of Singer Legal PLLC, stated, “Jeffery Pietrzyk, Sr. worked as a union official and rank-and-file member of the UAW for 49 years. He started in the plant and rose through the ranks. Towards the end of his career, Jeff became a senior UAW Official. In 2010, he was asked by one of the UAWs most powerful leaders to work under him at the CHR. As Jeff admitted today, it was during this time period that Jeff assisted his boss with receiving kickbacks on two different contracts. Today, Jeff accepted responsibility for his actions and pleaded guilty in federal court. He is ashamed of his actions. Jeff wishes he made better choices when he was approached by his boss and asked to commit a crime. As we know, he did not. He would like to apologize to his family, his friends, and, most importantly, the UAW members he failed to represent as earnestly as he could.”

Attorney Singer added: "I think it is important to note that Jeff's involvement in this scheme is much more limited in time and in scope than his named and unnamed co-defendants. Jeff did not receive millions of dollars in kickbacks from these vendors. Unlike others, these vendors did not buy him a luxurious home or a car. Jeff's personal benefit was less than \$100,000.00. And Jeff will forfeit that money to the government at sentencing and accept whatever punishment he ultimately is adjudged."

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