




Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: The Honorable Daniella Levine Cava, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Felix Jimenez, Inspector General 

Date: May 12, 2025

Subject: Former Employee of the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), his Wife, and a County Contractor Pled Guilty to Bribery Scheme in Federal Court, Ref. IG21-0015-I

Based on an anonymous complaint, an OIG-initiated investigation resulted in the guilty pleas of three individuals involved in a bribery scheme concerning the procurement of Miami-Dade County railway parts and maintenance for the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW). The scheme involved the former Acting General Superintendent of DTPW's Track and Guideway (Rail) Division, Dale Robinson, and his spouse, Marcia Robinson, and Jessie Bledsoe, the principal and owner of JB Railroad Contracting, Inc. (JB Railroad), a county contractor providing the removal and replacement of railway fasteners and other rail-related maintenance services. The Robinsons had entered guilty pleas to federal offenses on April 25, 2025; and Mr. Bledsoe had entered his guilty plea last Friday, May 9, 2025. All three were charged by the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, with felonies related to a bribery scheme whereby Mr. Robinson illegally solicited Mr. Bledsoe for money in exchange for recommending contract awards. These contracts were partially funded by Federal grant monies. The case was initiated by the OIG and investigated jointly with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Miami Area Corruption Task Force.

Mr. Robinson and Mr. Bledsoe were charged with Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Sections 666(a)(1)(B) and 2. Mr. Robinson solicited and received bribes from Mr. Bledsoe. Mrs. Robinson was charged with Misprision of a Felony, in violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 4, for having knowledge of the actual commission of Mr. Robinson's bribery offense, concealing the same, and failing to make the same known to appropriate authorities.

The Federal funds at issue were grant funds awarded to the County from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The federal grants, *CARES Act 5307 Operating Assistance, Capital Security and Capital Cost of Contracting*, Federal Award Identification No. FL-2020-051-00, provided DTPW funds to help respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and Federal Award Identification No. FL-2022-048-00, funds for rail and vehicle maintenance.

A portion of the FTA funds were used by DTPW for track maintenance and repair on the County's Metrorail system. Mr. Bledsoe, through his company JB Railroad, performed that work for the County beginning in 2018 as a subcontractor. JB Railroad, a North Dakota corporation, doing business as a Foreign Profit Corporation in Florida, registered as a County vendor in 2019, and received its first County contract in 2020.

The investigation found that sometime in May 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DTPW entered into a non-competitive, Emergency Metrorail Track Fastener Replacement Contract with JB Railroad to remove and replace track fasteners, Contract No. E-10072-1. Mr. Robinson, as Acting General Superintendent, was actively involved in recommending and facilitating the award to JB Railroad. The contract was extended in February 2021, for an additional 25,000 track fasteners and additional allocation of \$1.5 million. Also in February of 2021, JB Railroad was added as a vendor on the Pool Contract No. 9418-0/16 to provide thermite welds and other rail changes.

In January 2021, prior to the track fastener contract extension and thermite welding contract, Dale Robinson solicited money from Mr. Bledsoe. The payments were to be concealed and disguised as payments from JB Railroad to another railroad company, Tailored Railroads & Consulting LLC (Tailored Railroads). Marcia Robinson established Tailored Railroads in Maryland that January. Mrs. Robinson was listed as Tailored Railroads' resident agent with her Maryland residence as its business address.¹ Mrs. Robinson was also the authorized signer on Tailored Railroads' bank account. Mrs. Robinson was, at that time, employed as a legal assistant in the District of Columbia, and had no previous experience in the railroad industry.

Between February 2021 and February 2022, Tailored Railroads issued four invoices to JB Railroad. The investigation showed that Tailored Railroads existed solely to receive the bribe payments. Tailored Railroads did not perform any actual railroad related work or services for JB Railroad or anyone else. Between February 2021 and March 2022, JB Railroad issued four checks to Tailored Railroads totaling \$75,956.

During that same period, JB Railroad was paid by the County for work under its contract to remove and replace fasteners on the Metrorail track and for the thermite welding contract with DTPW. JB Railroad also qualified for and was awarded work under a rail-parts pool Contract No. FB-01645P. In total, JB Railroad was paid over \$7 million for work under the three contracts, \$4,447,860 for the COVID emergency contract, \$212,017 for the thermite welding contract, and \$2,341,995 through the rail-parts pool contract.

Dale Robinson began his employment with DTPW on January 30, 2017; he resigned in February 2025. Mr. Robinson had over 35 years of railroad work experience, including in the Washington D.C. Metro Area Transit Authority and with DTPW. Tailored Railroads' Maryland registration has been forfeited and is no longer current.

¹ During the time Dale Robinson was employed and living in Miami-Dade County, he maintained a home in Maryland where Marcia Robinson lived and worked.

On April 25, 2025, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson pled guilty to the Bribery and Misprision of a Felony charges, respectively. The Robinsons' sentencing is scheduled before United States District Judge K. Michael Moore on July 10, 2025.

On May 9, 2025, Mr. Bledsoe pled guilty to Bribery. His sentencing is scheduled for August 1, 2025, before United States District Judge Beth Bloom.

Cc: Jimmy Morales, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the Mayor
Stacy Miller, Director, Department of Transportation and Public Works
Namita Uppal, Director, Strategic Procurement Department
Ofelia Tamayo, Director, Internal Compliance Department
Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
Javier Betancourt, Executive Director, Citizens Independent Transportation Trust



PRESS RELEASE

Miami-Dade Transit Supervisor, Wife, and Metrorail Contractor Plead Guilty to Bribery

Monday, May 12, 2025

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District
of Florida

MIAMI – Miami-Dade Transit Track and Guideway Supervisor Dale Robinson, his wife Marcia Robinson, and Jessie Bledsoe, a contractor doing work for Miami-Dade Transit, pled guilty in related cases to Federal charges. Dale Robinson pled guilty to soliciting a bribe from Bledsoe in connection with the issuance of Metrorail repair and maintenance contracts. Marcia Robinson pled guilty to misprision of a felony for helping her husband cover up the bribery. Jessie Bledsoe pled guilty to paying a bribe to Dale Robinson in connection with his contracts with Miami-Dade Transit. Dale Robinson and Marcia Robinson entered their guilty pleas before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ellen F. D'Angelo and they were accepted by U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore, while Bledsoe entered his guilty plea in Miami last week before U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom.

According to the facts admitted at the change of plea hearings, Dale Robinson was the acting General Superintendent and lead Rail Structure and Track Supervisor in the Track and Guideway unit of Miami-Dade Transit. His responsibilities included making recommendations about contractors to be chosen to do Metrorail track maintenance and repair work for the transit unit and overseeing the work done by those contractors, including Bledsoe. Bledsoe was the co-owner and operator of JB Railroad Contracting, Inc. (JB Railroad), a North Dakota-based

company that did railroad track and rail replacement, repair, and maintenance work throughout the United States, including on the Metrorail system.

In or around January 2021, while JB Railroad was working on a previously obtained contract for the removal and replacement of Metrorail track fasteners and was in the process of seeking an additional contract to do welding work on the Metrorail system for Miami-Dade Transit, Dale Robinson requested a large bribe from Bledsoe. Bledsoe agreed to pay Robinson that bribe, which was intended to influence Robinson's selection of the contractor for the upcoming welding project. Bledsoe also agreed to concealing the payment by making it to a company specified by Dale Robinson.

After this, in late January 2021, Dale Robinson directed his wife, Marcia Robinson, who lived in Maryland, to create a company named Tailored Railroads & Consulting LLC and to open a company checking account on which she would serve as the sole signatory. Marcia Robinson did this, filing the company paperwork in the State of Maryland. Dale Robinson then provided the information about Tailored Railroads to Bledsoe so that Bledsoe could disguise the payments intended for Dale Robinson's personal benefit by making them via checks from JB Railroad to Tailored Railroads.

After the bribe had been solicited by Dale Robinson, and after Tailored Railroads was created and the checking account opened by Marcia Robinson, during the period of February 2021 through February 2022, Dale Robinson directed Marcia Robinson to send a total of four invoices from Tailored Railroads to JB Railroad. When Marcia Robinson sent each of these invoices, she knew that Tailored Railroads had not provided goods or services of any type to JB Railroad.

Bledsoe then caused JB Railroad to issue checks to Tailored Railroads to pay these invoices, even though Tailored Railroads provided no goods or services to JB Railroad, because these actually were the payments of the bribe solicited by Dale Robinson. A total of four checks were issued from JB Railroad to Tailored Railroads during the period of February 2021 through March 2022 to pay these four invoices. These four checks totaled approximately \$75,956, the amount that Bledsoe ultimately provided to Tailored Railroads for the personal benefit of Dale Robinson in response to Dale Robinson's bribe solicitation.

While not knowing all the details of her husband's illegal bribery agreement with Bledsoe, when the four checks were issued to Tailored Railroads, Marcia Robinson knew that the funds were being paid by Bledsoe for Dale Robinson's personal benefit in connection with Dale Robinson's recommendation of JB Railroad for work to be performed for Miami-Dade Transit. Despite this, she did not inform authorities of her husband's crime, and her actions all helped to conceal his criminal activity. In addition, beyond issuing these four invoices and receiving the four payments from JB Railroad, Tailored Railroads engaged in no other activity of any type, and it eventually was administratively dissolved by the State of Maryland.

Dale Robinson and Marcia Robinson are scheduled for sentencing on July 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. before U.S. District Judge K. Michael Moore in Miami. Dale Robinson faces a possible maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and Marcia Robinson faces a possible maximum sentence of up to three years in prison.

Jessie Bledsoe is scheduled for sentencing on August 1, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. before U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom in Miami. Bledsoe faces a possible maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison

U.S. Attorney Hayden P. O’Byrne for the Southern District of Florida, acting Special Agent in Charge Brett Skiles of FBI Miami, and Inspector General Felix Jimenez of the Miami-Dade County Office of Inspector General (MDC-OIG) announced the guilty pleas.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward N. Stamm is prosecuting both cases and Assistant U.S. Attorney Marx Calderon is handling the forfeiture matters on both cases.

Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or at <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>, under case number 25-cr-20168.

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Contact

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