

2 More Plead Guilty In Pa. Ironworkers 'Shadow Gang' Case

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Law360, New York (September 24, 2014, 3:47 PM ET) -- Two members of a Philadelphia ironworkers union who were charged with using illicit tactics to strong-arm contractors into hiring union labor pled guilty Tuesday to racketeering, arson and related charges, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

According to the [U.S. Attorney's Office](#), James Walsh, 49, pled guilty to RICO conspiracy, two counts of maliciously damaging property by means of fire, conspiracy to maliciously damage property by means of fire, two counts of use of fire to commit a felony, and attempted maliciously damaging property by means of fire. Greg Sullivan, 49, pled guilty to conspiracy to maliciously damage property by means of fire and Hobbs Act Extortion.

Walsh faces up to 110 years in prison with a \$1.5 million fine, and Sullivan faces up to 40 years in prison with a \$500,000 fine, according to federal prosecutors. Sentencing hearings are scheduled for Jan. 12 and Jan. 20, respectively.

The pair [was indicted](#), along with eight others, in February for allegedly creating "goon squads" to set

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fires, assault workers and sabotage property in order to force contractors into hiring union labor.

According to federal prosecutors, Walsh admitted to participating in the Quaker Meetinghouse arson, in which he and two other defendants set a crane on fire, causing \$500,000 in damage, as well as an attempted arson in Malvern and other incidents.

Sullivan participated in an arson on Grays Avenue and the attempted arson in Malvern, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

In July, a federal grand jury [tacked on](#) two extortion charges to the indictment, which included 14 additional acts of extortion.

A week earlier, U.S. District Judge Michael Baylson [denied requests](#) by union leader Joseph Dougherty and four others to dismiss charges against them.

"James Walsh accepts responsibility for his criminal actions related to the ironworkers criminal case in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania," Walsh's attorney, William Brennan, told Law360.

Rocco Cipparone Jr., who represents Sullivan, said his client is relieved to put the incident behind him and move forward with the rest of his life.

"He made a prompt decision to acknowledge his actions and to take responsibility for them by pleading guilty," Cipparone said. "I am hopeful that his sentence will be one that will allow him to continue to move forward positively with minimal interruption to his family life and his business, in light of the fact that Mr. Sullivan's conduct essentially was the most minimal of all those charged, and in light of his otherwise well-led positive, productive life as a father, community member and hard-working business owner."

Two other defendants, Francis Sean O'Donnell and William Gillin, [pled guilty](#) on Monday to similar charges.

Walsh is represented by William Brennan.

Sullivan is represented by Rocco Cipparone Jr.

The case is being prosecuted by U.S. Attorney Zane David Memeger and Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert James Livermore.

The case is U.S. v. Dougherty et al., case number [2:14-cr-00069](#), in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Philadelphia.