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GUILTY PLEAS ENTERED FOR ILLEGAL DUMP SITE IN AURORA

Three Corporations Among Defendants

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Kane County State's Attorney John Barsanti today said five defendants have entered guilty pleas in Kane County Circuit Court for their roles in operating an illegal dump in Aurora in 2003.

A June 2003 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) inspection revealed that defendants Anthony Belle and Eugene Finnigan were operating an unpermitted landfill site and accepting waste at a portion of a used car lot at 512 N. Broadway in Aurora. The site is occupied by several businesses including R.A.C. Ventures, Inc., Rite Angle Construction, Inc., and C.O.D. Roll Off & Disposal, Inc. The assortment of materials observed at the site by IEPA inspectors included old tires, large piles of cardboard, general refuse, wood shingles, drywall, metal, rock and cinder blocks. In addition, waste oil, antifreeze and gasoline had been dumped at the site.

On December 27 in Kane County Circuit Court, Finnigan, of Lemont, pleaded guilty to Attempted Criminal Disposal of Waste, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to two years probation and ordered to pay \$1,700 in fines, court costs and drug testing fees. Finnigan also must cooperate with Madigan's office and Kane County officials and testify against any transporter of waste to the illegal landfill in future civil or criminal proceedings.

The two businesses associated with Finnigan pleaded guilty to Criminal Disposal of Waste, a Class 4 felony, and were placed on two years conditional discharge and ordered by the court to pay fines and costs totaling \$2,300. The businesses are R.A.C. Ventures, Inc. and Rite Angle Construction & Remodeling, Inc., both of Lemont.

Madigan said defendant Anthony Belle, of Chicago, and his business, C.O.D. Roll-Off & Disposal, also pleaded guilty to felony Criminal Disposal of Waste charges on Aug. 9. Belle was placed on conditional discharge and ordered to pay fines and costs totaling \$3,900 and, like Finnigan, must cooperate in the ongoing case and testify against any transporter of waste to the illegal facility. C.O.D. Roll-Off was placed on two years conditional discharge and ordered to pay fines and costs of \$2,300.

Assistant Attorney General Colette Melhuish is handling the case for Madigan's Environmental Crimes Bureau. Assistant State's Attorney Mark Stajdohar is representing the Kane County State's Attorney's Office. The case Office of the Illinois Attorney General - Guilty Pleas Entered for Illegal Dump Site

was investigated by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Aurora Police Department.

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