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ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: COOK COUNTY MAN FOUND GUILTY OF SABOTAGING NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that a Cook County man formerly employed by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) was found guilty of intentionally sabotaging his former employer's website and database once he was no longer employed by the organization.

Derek Pollard, 28, of Chicago, was found guilty on Thursday of one count of computer tampering, a Class 4 felony. Pollard's sentencing is currently scheduled for July 5

"By seeking vengeance against his former employer, Mr. Pollard caused a massive disruption to the operations of an international organization with hundreds of thousands of members," Raoul said. "The court's findings will ensure Mr. Pollard is held accountable for his actions.

The Illinois-based nonprofit organization was founded in 1969 and is responsible for studying the effects of urban density and vertical growth, collecting data on tall buildings across the world. According to Raoul, Pollard was employed by the CTBUH as an information technology supervisor from July 2018 until September 2018. On his last day of employment, Pollard created an account giving him full administrative access to the CTBUH's website and database, unbeknownst to others at the organization.

Evidence presented at trial showed Pollard met with CTBUH management on Jan. 10, 2019 regarding the potential of rejoining the organization. Later that same day Pollard allegedly took down the CTBUH's website and deleted backup data, crippling the organization's ability to fulfill its work.

The Chicago Police Department Financial Crimes Unit and the United States Secret Service Cyber Fraud Unit investigated the case. Deputy Bureau Chief Regina Jeon and Assistant Attorney General Sean O'Connell handled the case from Raoul's Special Prosecutions Bureau.