

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**



Anthony Merritt,

Respondent

Case No. 24-0005-F

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

THIS MATTER COMES BEFORE THE BOARD on the request of the Director of Government Ethics that the formal investigation initiated against Respondent herein be dismissed; and

IT APPEARING that, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 1-1162.13(a)(3), a formal investigation was initiated against Respondent, a former employee of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), after Respondent was charged with participating in two separate conspiracies to facilitate the payment of bribes from District business owners to an official at the District Office of Tax Revenue (OTR) to reduce the tax liabilities owed by the businesses, depriving the District of at least \$2.3 million in unpaid taxes;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that, Respondent was charged in a nine-count indictment in May 2019 and separately charged with a six-count indictment in July 2019 in connection with facilitating the payment of bribes and accepting a cut of some of the bribe payments;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that, after agreeing to a plea agreement in May 2022 and then recanting his admissions and agreeing to vacate his plea in 2022, Respondent proceeded to a jury

trial on the initial indictment in 2023 where the jury, on June 7, 2023 rendered a guilty verdict against Respondent on all nine counts;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that Defendant pleaded guilty to all counts of the second indictment on September 26, 2023;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that, on February 23, 2024, Respondent was sentenced to 110 months in prison and three years of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$736,536.52 and to forfeit \$581,378.77;

IT FURTHER APPEARING that, the Director has recommended that the Board dismiss this formal investigation for the following reasons:

1. Respondent has been punished for his conduct;
2. The interests of judicial economy would be best served by dismissing this matter without prejudice, thereby allowing resources to be focused on other investigations;
and
3. The Director may reopen this investigation and pursue action against Respondent within the applicable limitations period, if she determines that there is reason to do so.

ORDERED that, pursuant to D.C. Official Code §1-1162.16(a)(1) the formal investigation initiated against Respondent be, and hereby is, DISMISSED without prejudice; and it is further

ORDERED that this case be CLOSED.



Norma Hutcheson
Chairperson, Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

3/7/24
Date