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Former HPD Employee Sentenced to Prison in Bribery Prosecution

Former Houston Police Department employee Edward Mason, 43, was sentenced to four years in the Texas Department of Corrections for a bribery scheme that alerted illegal game room owners to undercover investigations. A tip led HPD officers to conduct a sting operation that resulted in the charges. On three separate occasions, Mason met with undercover officers to provide confidential information in exchange for hundreds of dollars in bribe money.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Maritza Antu handled the prosecution and classified Mason's actions as extremely dangerous for undercover officers. "The defendant provided confidential information about undercover vice officers to people engaging in illegal activities. This information could have endangered the lives of those officers."

District Attorney Pat Lykos, a former police officer and judge, has tasked her Public Integrity Division with uncovering and investigating allegations of criminal activity by public servants. "Mr. Mason worked in HPD's property room and was trusted with handling evidence from criminal cases. He not only abused that trust—he shattered it—by informing criminals of upcoming raids and police deployments."

Mason's cases were heard by a Harris County jury, which ultimately decided the four year sentence. The jury rejected the defense's request for probation and sent him to prison, sending a message about those who betray public trust. The cases were tried in the 232nd District Court.

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