

Former Teamster Local 812 VP gets 18 months for bribery

NEW YORK - A Newburgh man, the former vice president of a Teamster union local, was sentenced on Wednesday to 18 months in federal prison for bribery, federal prosecutors said.

The U.S. Attorney's Office of the Southern District of New York said John Ulrich, 50, is the former vice president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 812 and a former trustee of the union's employee health benefit plan. Prosecutors say Ulrich lined his pockets at the expense of the roughly 3,000 local members, beverage industry workers throughout the New York metro area.

The members are covered by an insurance plan that covers health, life, dental, visions and disability, among other benefits, and a third-party administrator (TPA) processed members' health insurance claims.



In 2013, while dealing with financial difficulties, officials say, Ulrich solicited payments of \$5,000 per quarter from a TPA executive; in return, Ulrich used his influence to make sure the company remained the administrator. Before Ulrich made the request, the union has issued a request for proposals for a new third-party administrator. The executive made payments, and the union stayed with the company.

In 2014, prosecutors say, Ulrich raised the payments, saying they were needed for another plan

trustee. In 2015, Ulrich again solicited payments for the other trustee, calling it “good insurance” and referring to the payment as “pizza.”

At a special board meeting in 2016, the Local removed Ulrich from the vice presidency and from his trustee positions.

In addition to the 18-month prison term, Ulrich must serve two years of supervised release and forfeit \$55,000. He’ll also pay fines, the amount to be determined later, and may not be employed by a labor union or an employee benefit plan for 13 years.