



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:
press@oag.state.md.us
410-576-7009

Attorney General Brown Announces Indictment of Three Men for Charges Related to the Illegal Dumping of Hazardous Substances in Baltimore City

BALTIMORE, MD (October 9, 2024) – Attorney General Anthony G. Brown today announced the filing of criminal charges in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City against three men for violations of state environmental laws by improperly disposing hazardous materials in the city of Baltimore. The defendants are, Anthony L. Simmons, 53, of Baltimore; Orlando D. Pagan, 39, of Elkridge; and Jeremy Scott Thompson, 42, of Baltimore.

Anthony Simmons was charged with four felony counts of improper disposal of controlled hazardous substances, a single count of conspiracy to improperly dispose of controlled hazardous substances, and related solid waste charges. Orlando Pagan and Jeremy Thompson are each charged with conspiracy and three counts of illegal disposal of controlled hazardous substances and associated solid waste charges.

On or about February 16, 2023, the Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD) responded to a 911 call for materials being discarded underneath the Lombard Street bridge in the 4500 block of E. Lombard Street. Upon arrival, emergency personnel discovered multiple drums, bags, and boxes labeled “hazardous chemicals,” including containers marked with the skull and crossbones symbol and others marked “flammable” Some of the boxes, bags, and drums were open and actively leaking to the ground. BCFD notified the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) Emergency Response Division, which then responded to the location.

The following day, February 17, 2023, BCFD responded to a 911 call for hazardous waste dumped behind a business located in the 4200 block of W. Monument Street in Baltimore. The waste appeared to match the material discovered the previous day in the 4500 block of E. Lombard Street. Notably, the waste had the same skull and crossbones symbols and “flammable” markings. Through further investigation, investigators located a third dump site in the 300 block of Spring Court.

The Attorney General’s Environmental and Natural Resources Crime Unit worked with BCFD and MDE on the subsequent investigation. That investigation revealed that Simmons was the owner and operator of a transloading business that leased a large warehouse, previously known as the Apollo Warehouse, located in the 4300 block of Eastern Avenue in Baltimore. The investigation further revealed that Simmons directed one of his employees, Thompson, to facilitate disposal of the waste to free up space in the warehouse. As alleged in the indictments, Simmons and Thompson paid Pagan to dispose of the controlled hazardous materials. Pagan then dumped the items at the three locations in the city.

“We cannot allow businesses or their workers to risk public health by dumping toxic substances near our homes, playgrounds, or public spaces. Hazardous materials pose serious dangers and must be disposed of safely, not left on the street where they can cause illness or even death,” **said Attorney General Brown**. “These indictments demonstrate that improperly discarding harmful chemicals is not just bad business—it will be prosecuted.”

The storage, transportation, and disposal in Maryland of controlled hazardous substances is regulated by MDE through authority granted by Title 7 of the Environment Article and related regulations. Hazardous substances are those chemicals that have the potential to cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or serious illness or threaten human health or the environment if mismanaged. controlled hazardous substances must be categorized, packaged, and labelled prior to transport by a licensed hauler before disposal at a licensed facility.

“Hazardous materials must always be handled and disposed of in accordance with the law,” said Maryland Department of the Environment Secretary Serena McIlwain. “We are proud to work in partnership with the Attorney General’s Environmental and Natural Resources Crime Unit to protect the health and safety of Marylanders.”

Attorney General Brown thanked his Environmental and Natural Resources Crimes Unit led by Chief Counsel D’Arcy Talley, and Assistant Attorneys General Kory Lemmert and Eileen Murphy, who are prosecuting this case. Attorney General Brown also thanked State’s Attorney for Baltimore City Ivan Bates for his assistance with this prosecution.

A criminal indictment is merely an accusation of wrongdoing, and each defendant is presumed innocent until the State proves the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

###

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/100924.pdf>