

Former Newark mayor pleads innocent

by UPI

NEWARK, N.J. -- Former Newark, N.J., Mayor Sharpe James pleaded innocent to federal corruption charges. Both James and his alleged partner Tamika Riley put in pleas of innocent Monday, New York's WABC-TV reported. James, 71, was charged with using city-issued credit cards to pay for some \$58,000 worth of personal trips, which Riley reportedly accompanied him on and expenses, the television station said. He has also been charged with allegedly selling city-owned properties to Riley at a discounted price. Riley, 38 pleaded innocent on charges of fraud, stemming from what is being called a scheme to gain profit from reselling the land she purchased from the city at discounted prices. She was also was charged with tax evasion. James, who said he wouldn't seek a new term as state senator, could be sentenced to 20 years in prison if convicted.

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