



Cape Cod gambling ring leader ordered to shell out \$300,000

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WORCESTER — A Milford man who was a benefactor of a Dennisport sports gambling ring under federal investigation has been ordered to surrender \$300,000 in ill-gotten gains.

U.S. District Court Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV on Wednesday ordered John Pizzillo, 73, to forfeit the money.

Investigators determined \$300,000 is the amount of Pizzillo's more than \$1 million bank account that was obtained illegally, according to court documents.

The forfeiture stems from Pizzillo's guilty plea in April to providing funding for three illegal sports gambling organizations in Massachusetts, including the Dennisport operation. According to prosecutors, Pizzillo has ties to organized crime in the Milford area.

Among those named in the indictment was Adam Hart, 85, who along with Timothy Reardon, then 33, and William Neofotistos, then 60, ran an outfit out of the Ocean House restaurant in Dennisport.

The trio operated the gambling business from 2000 to 2009 and pulled in about \$2,000 a day, U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz's office reported in April.

According to the allegations, Hart, Neofotistos and others conspired with an unnamed, elected law enforcement official to obstruct an investigation into the operation — the product of an alleged tip-off.

All three pleaded guilty in June and are expected to be sentenced Sept. 22. As part of their plea agreement, all three have opted to cooperate with federal prosecutors who could recommend lighter sentences under federal guidelines.

In summing up evidence against the trio, Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Wyshak Jr. didn't specifically name the Cape official linked to the case but said it was someone in an elected position in the Cape and Islands District Attorney's office.

Cape and Island District Attorney Michael O'Keefe is the only elected official in the office.

O'Keefe's name was brought up after investigators heard one of Hart's relatives mention him in a conversation wiretapped by the state police and state attorney general's office.

In an interview with the Times in 2010, O'Keefe said Hart called him in July 2008 concerning charges against his 18-year-old grandson, Daniel Griswold.

Griswold was accused of breaking into several vehicles in Yarmouth.

The call prompted investigators to examine how O'Keefe had handled the case.

O'Keefe has repeatedly denied any involvement in a tip-off or any wrongdoing by himself or anyone in his office.