



PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Announces Lawsuit Against Prince George's County Construction Contractor *Lawsuit Alleges Violations of the False Claims Act*

BALTIMORE, MD (May 14, 2019) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that his office, in conjunction with the Washington County Board of Education, has filed a [lawsuit](#) against J&K Contracting, Inc. and its owner Kyriakos Kiotsekoglou alleging that they violated the Maryland False Claims Act. J&K Contracting's principal place of business is located in Prince George's County, but the company regularly conducted business in Washington County.

The Maryland False Claims Act prohibits the submission of false or fraudulent claims for payment to the government. Violators may be required to pay up to three times of the amount of damages sustained by the government and additional penalties of up to \$10,000 per claim.

The lawsuit alleges that J&K Contracting violated the False Claims Act by submitting claims for payment—for roof replacement projects on two county schools—to the Washington County Board of Education that misrepresented its use of certified, minority-owned businesses to meet the contract's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program participation goals.

According to the complaint, J&K Contracting falsely claimed to have made payments to minority-owned businesses, and when documentation of the payments was requested, the company submitted falsified documentation to make it appear as if payments had been made.

“We allege that, first, the defendants were deceptive in their contract bid, and, second, in their claims for payment, defendants repeatedly misrepresented the participation of MBE subcontractors and the amount of payments that the subcontractors supposedly received,” said Attorney General Frosh. “The False Claims Act flatly prohibits those types of misrepresentations.”

Washington County Board of Education had sought State appropriations to partially fund the school roof replacement projects. The Interagency Commission on School Construction, along with the Maryland Board of Public Works, approved State funding for the projects. The Interagency Commission requires all contracts funded through the Commission to contain MBE participation requirements and otherwise comply with the State MBE program. The Board of Education provided additional funding for the school roof projects.

The State is seeking the payment of restitution and penalties for J&K Contracting's alleged violations of the Maryland False Claims Act.