

# **Former South Gate official pleads guilty to additional charge**

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A former South Gate city treasurer who was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison last year pleaded guilty Monday to an additional state charge involving his recall election.

Albert Robles pleaded to a misdemeanor count of violating election rules that require mass campaign mailings to carry the name of the person controlling the campaign committee, said Deputy District Attorney Maureen O'Brien.

Superior Court Judge Thomas I. McKnew Jr. sentenced Robles to 180 days in prison, but ruled he had already served the time in federal custody. Robles also received three years probation.

Robles was removed from his city post in January 2003 in a recall election that also successfully targeted his City Council allies in the Los Angeles suburb.

Last year Robles, 42, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for extracting nearly \$2 million in bribes from contractors that he funneled to family and friends.

Prosecutors said Robles turned South Gate into a "pay-to-play" city where bribes were part of the cost of doing business, and that his misdeeds cost the city \$12 million nearly half its annual budget.

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