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## **Former UAW Vice President, Joe Ashton, Sentenced To Prison For Stealing UAW Funds**

***Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) issues the following statement regarding the sentencing of Joe Ashton, former Vice President of the UAW International Union, to prison for corruption:***

[Chicago, Illinois, **November 17, 2020**] – In yet another example of corruption in the hierarchy of the United Auto Workers International Union, Joe Ashton, -- former Vice President of the UAW -- was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison today. Ashton is the second former member of the UAW International Executive Board (IEB) to be sentenced to prison for crimes against the membership of the union.

**“Without a doubt, this is a sad day in the history of the UAW,”** says Justin Mayhugh, Co-Chairperson of Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD). **The membership of the UAW must rise up with indignation over what seems like a never-ending stream of corrupt acts on the part of the UAW leadership, who were swept into office by the Administration Caucus. This is why I am involved in the efforts of UAWD to provide another caucus in the UAW so members will have a chance to elect leaders who will work in their behalf and not steal money from them.”**

Ashton pled guilty on December 4, 2019, almost a year ago, to wire fraud and money laundering by accepting kickbacks for his part in a scheme to give his friend a \$4 million contract to purchase 58,000 watches with union funds. The money came from the UAW/General Motors (GM) Training Funds set up to provide training to members of the UAW. Ashton received a kickback of \$250,000 for his role in the scheme.

**“It is imperative that UAW members have full transparency along with the right to vote on our International officers,** says Scott Houldieson, Chairperson of UAWD. **These reforms are the only thing that can prevent more corruption. Until real checks and balances are put in place, there cannot be accountability. It is the membership that suffers from all of this corruption,”** says Scott Houldieson, Chair of Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD).

UAWD is fighting for direct elections of top UAW officers through a one-member, one

