
NY businessman faces Sandy fraud, bribery and other charges

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(AP) -- A New York businessman has been arrested on charges including that he fraudulently claimed one of his restaurants suffered nearly \$1 million in Superstorm Sandy damages.

Harendra Singh pleaded not guilty to a 13-count federal indictment charging him with wire fraud, bribery, disaster relief fraud and other crimes. His attorney did not immediately comment.

Singh allegedly inflated Sandy-related damages suffered by a restaurant he owns in New York City. The indictment says he fraudulently received \$950,000 in disaster relief funds.

Singh, who also owns restaurants on Long Island, also is charged with bribing a town of Oyster Bay official in a scheme to obtain \$20 million in loan guarantees for some of his restaurants.

He also faces charges for allegedly under-reporting \$17 million in income and wages paid to employees.

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