



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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FIVE ARRESTED IN FRAUDULENT VEHICLE DOCUMENTS CASES

RIVERSIDE – Five people have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the filing of fraudulent vehicle documents with the state Department of Motor Vehicles in four cases filed by the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. Some of these fraudulent documents allowed potentially unsafe vehicles to be on the road, endangering the public.

The following people were arrested within the last week in the four listed criminal cases: In case RIF1401984, Jahangir "John" Toughian, DOB: 10-21-60, of Corona; and Jose Enrique Patron, DOB: 8-10-66, of Riverside. In case RIF1401976, Jesus Machuca Jr, DOB: 1-12-84, of Riverside. In case RIF1401977, Marcos D. Solorio, DOB: 2-23-64, of Moreno Valley. And in case RIF1401983, Javier Naranjo Geronimo, DOB: 4-6-56, of Moreno Valley. A sixth person charged in RIF1401984, Sara Cristina Flores, DOB: 9-15-70, of Riverside, has not yet been arrested.

The number of felony charges in this case range from three counts filed against Machuca Jr to 240 counts filed against Geronimo. Charges filed in the four cases include conspiracy, procuring a false instrument, forgery of records, altered or forged vehicle registration, and perjury.

Toughian, Solorio and Geronimo are each scheduled to be arraigned on June 4, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. at the Hall of Justice in Riverside with Toughian in Dept. 63 and Solorio and Geronimo in Dept. 41. Patron and Machuca are no longer in custody after posting bail.

The case -- which law enforcement authorities, led by the California Highway Patrol's Inland Division Investigative Services Unit, have been investigating for about three years -- involves forged or fake documents such as dealer report of sales, brake and lamp certificates, and vehicle identification number verifications. The allegedly forged or fake documents would allow for the bypassing of California sales tax owed on the purchase of used vehicles and to bypass the CHP's salvage vehicle inspection program. The violations alleged in this case represent the potential for uninspected salvaged vehicles to be registered and driven on the road, endangering others sharing the road with these potentially unsafe vehicles.

During the investigation, search warrants were served at several locations including a business called Registration Services ECK on Arlington Avenue in Riverside.

Other agencies which assisted in the investigation include the state Department of Motor Vehicles, DMV investigators, the state Bureau of Automotive Repair, the state Board of Equalization, and investigators with the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

All the filed cases are being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Amy Zeta of the DA's Special Prosecutions Section, Insurance Fraud Unit.