



Riverside County District Attorney

CRIMINAL CASE UPDATE

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SIXTH PERSON ARRESTED IN FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS CASE

RIVERSIDE – A sixth person charged in a fraudulent documents case that placed potentially unsafe vehicles on the road has been arrested after a Department of Motor Vehicles technician recognized her name from news reports following a previous DA's Office news release and called the California Highway Patrol.

Sara Cristina Flores, DOB: 9-15-70, of Riverside, was arrested about 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2014, at the DMV office on Brockton Avenue in Riverside where she had gone as a customer.

Flores and five others have been charged and arrested for their alleged involvement in the filing of fraudulent vehicle documents with the DMV 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.

Also arrested and charged are: Jahangir "John" Toughian, DOB: 10-21-60, of Corona; Jose Enrique Patron, DOB: 8-10-66, of Riverside; Jesus Machuca Jr, DOB: 1-12-84, of Riverside; Marcos D. Solorio, DOB: 2-23-64, of Moreno Valley; and Javier Naranjo Geronimo, DOB: 4-6-56, of Moreno Valley.

Charges filed in the four cases include conspiracy, procuring a false instrument, forgery of records, altered or forged vehicle registration, and perjury.

Flores is scheduled to be arraigned in case RIF1401984 on June 9, 2014, at 1:30 p.m. in Dept. 63 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. She has been charged with 31 felonies in this case.

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.

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.