

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

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Contractors Board Cites 11 Alleged Unlicensed Contractors In Statewide Undercover Sting Operations

Criminal investigators from the Nevada State Contractors Board recently conducted multiple sting operations in northwest Las Vegas and the Reno/Sparks area. Nine alleged unlicensed contractors were given criminal citations in Southern Nevada and two were cited in Northern Nevada.

Those who received citations in Southern Nevada included:

Cesar Ernesto Recinos-Lopez, dba Cesar's Handy Work, recently thought he stumbled onto a gold mine of potential customers, while canvassing a Northwest Las Vegas neighborhood with his business cards in search of drywall jobs. Unfortunately, he didn't have a contractor's license and was given a criminal citation by a NSCB investigator for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license* after submitting a \$1,100 drywall bid . Upon receipt of the citation, Recinos-Lopez stated:

"I didn't know anything about this when I got this (business license). No one explained what I could do."

What Recinos-Lopez needed to do was obtain either a C-3 or C-4 contractor's license.

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Rogelio Orozco Rubio, dba Mechanical Services; Michael Brewer, dba LV Xtreme Painters; Guy Mizrahi, dba Mr. Fix; and Phillip Harp, dba Exterior Home Services turned to Craigslist to advertise their contracting services. Unfortunately, none of them were licensed contractors, and they were cited by NSCB investigators at a sting house.

Rubio submitted a \$1,500 bid for the installation of a water heater and drywall. He was cited for *contracting without a license*.

Brewer submitted a \$1,400 bid to paint the exterior of the two-story home. He was cited for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*.

Mizrahi submitted a \$14,000 bid to NSCB investigators to repair the fire-damaged garage that included electrical work, exterior painting and drywall work. He was cited for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*. Upon being cited, Mizrahi said he was only gathering information to hand over to a licensed general contractor. But when asked to identify the contractor, Mizrahi suddenly developed memory loss.

Harp submitted a \$1,200 bid to paint the exterior of the two-story home and was immediately issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*.

Nector Roman Fajardo, dba Mr. H. and Gregory Warweg, dba The Home Doctors, advertised their home refurbishing services in Nifty Nickel. Fajardo submitted an electrical and drywall bid to restore the fire-damaged garage of the sting house for \$2,500. He was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*.

Warweg submitted a bid to install drywall, a water heater and electrical work for \$1,800. He was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

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Charles Edward Gallego, dba Charles Gallego Painting, had advertised in The Home Magazine that he did painting. He submitted a bid to paint the exterior of the two-story sting house for \$2,600. He was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license* and *advertising without a license*.

Mario A. Salazar, dba Mario's Painting, was distributing his business cards in the neighborhood stating that he did painting. A NSCB investigator confronted him and issued Salazar a criminal citation for *advertising without a license*.

Those who received citations from the Reno/Sparks area included:

Stephen R. Quinn, dba Steve the Painter, provided a \$1,400 painting bid to a NSCB investigator. He bragged, in a Craigslist advertisement, that he had 25 years experience and was an expert at painting rounded corners in homes. But when it came to painting the garage, he said some of the pipes would probably get paint on them. Quinn apparently hadn't learned how to use painter's blue masking tape. He was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Oscar Rojas-Segura showed up at the jobsite and forgot to bring his tape measure. A NSCB investigator helped him out by suggesting that he pace out an area for the installation of pavers. Rojas-Segura also didn't speak or write in English very well, so his girlfriend assisted him in writing a \$1,600 bid for the job. Rojas-Segura was immediately issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

“These stings should serve as a warning that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer of the Board.

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“Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection. It is important for consumers to check the license status of any company they wish to hire at our website: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**

“Unlicensed contractors can cost consumers thousands of dollars,” Grein added. “They carry no insurance, are not bonded and have not met any standards of the trade they may be performing. Enforcement stings conducted by the NSCB are helping to rid our neighborhoods of these unscrupulous people.”

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see their NSCB license.**
- **Don’t rush into decisions or hire someone without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering door-to-door home improvements.**
- **Verify the contractor’s license by checking online at: www.nscb.state.nv.us or calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada.**

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- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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