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NSCB TOP 10 WANTED COOK AND VEGA-HERNANDEZ ARRESTED



Lenny Cook Vega-Hernandez

Lenny Cook (aka Selimoa Finau, Tom Cook and Tom Tuipulotu), *dba TC Concrete and Tree Service*, and Herendira Vega-Hernandez, (aka Erin Vega), *dba AAA Landscape and Design*, were recently arrested by the Reno Police Department's

Street Enforcement Team (SET). Both Cook and Vega-Hernandez have been listed on the Nevada State Contractors Board's Ten Most Wanted in Northern Nevada.

Cook allegedly received \$3,500 from one homeowner to replace a roof and failed to do any work. Cook also allegedly received \$19,500 from another homeowner to perform concrete, carpentry and masonry work and abandoned the project without completing the work. Cook had been wanted on two felony warrants issued by Reno Justice Court for diversion of funds.

Vega-Hernandez, who had been convicted three previous times of contracting without a license and also advertising without a license, allegedly gave a written bid for

the installation of sod and pavers at a Nevada State Contractors Board sting house in Reno. An arrest warrant was issued on her by the Washoe County District Attorney's Office.

The Investigations Unit of the Nevada State Contractors Board is hard at work tracking and citing offenders and informing the public of their rights and responsibilities. To assist in prosecuting illegal contracting, the Nevada State Contractors Board has launched an online "Ten Most Wanted." Individuals listed on the Ten Most Wanted website pages are those who have outstanding arrest warrants for unlicensed contracting activity. Contractors and members of the public can go online at www.nscb.state.nv.us and click "Ten Most Wanted" on the quick-link menu to review suspect's profiles. The website includes contact numbers to provide information about the individuals profiled.

The person(s) listed on the Nevada State Contractors Board Ten Most Wanted website and in press releases have not been convicted of the charges and are presumed innocent.

Homeowners who use the services of a revoked or suspended contractor are not eligible for recovery of their damages through the Residential Recovery Fund. The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board.

Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to www.nscb.state.nv.us.

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

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.**
- **Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit the amount of 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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