



NSCB News Release



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FORMER 'MOST WANTED' UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR CHARGED WITH FELONY; EIGHT OTHERS BUSTED IN FEBRUARY STING

Reno, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) cited eight alleged unlicensed contractors for violations of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 624.700 (contracting without a license) and NRS 624.720 (advertising without a license), during a February sting operation Sparks, Nev.

Two of those cited are former licensed contractors in Nevada.

Acting on a tip, Board investigators charged Nathaniel J. McVay with contracting without a license and advertising without a license. He was targeted after his advertisement was found on the internet and an electronic bulletin board. During the operation, McVay allegedly provided a bid of \$5,520 for installation of a bamboo floor. Construction projects valued at \$1,000 or more must be performed by licensed contractors.

The Board targeted Martin Nava after receiving a workmanship complaint from a homeowner. Investigators discovered that his company, Iron Granite, does not possess a Nevada contractor's license. During the sting, Nava allegedly provided bids ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,800 for granite materials. He was cited for contracting without a license.

Carlos Lopez-Hernandez was cited for contracting without a license and advertising without a license. Investigators contacted him after finding his business card advertising services for water features, driveways, patios, irrigation designs, retaining walls, and paving stones on a local bulletin board. During the sting, Lopez-Hernandez allegedly provided a bid of \$2,555 for a paver project. He told investigators that he is preparing to apply for a contractor's license and was encouraged to do so.

McVay, whose license was surrendered per Board action, and Nava, whose licenses were cancelled and not renewed, were encouraged to get their licenses reinstated. The Board's criminal investigators conducting stings use the interactions not only to fulfill the Board's mandate to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, but also to educate unlicensed contractors on the value of licensure.

(more)

Others cited in the Sparks sting are listed below.

SUSPECT	ALLEGED VIOLATION
Robert Kilcourse	Advertising & contracting without a license
David Marr	Advertising & contracting without a license
Mark Owens	Advertising & contracting without a license
Andrew Stading	Advertising & contracting without a license
David Turner	Contracting without a license

In addition to the \$1,000 threshold, Nevada law dictates that all electrical, plumbing, air conditioning and heating work – regardless of value – must be performed by licensed contractors.

The sting's success comes on the heels of felony charges being brought against a former member of the Contractors Board's 'Most Wanted' Unlicensed Contractors. The White Pine County District Attorney's Office filed felony charges against Julio Ricardo Gatica stemming from his citation in a November 2014 sting in Ely, Nev. The original charge charged Gatica with contracting without a license and advertising without a license. Charges were upgraded to felony status after the Board informed the district attorney that Gatica was convicted in Clark County for allegedly obtaining money under false pretenses and contracting without a license. That case landed Gatica on the Board's 'Most Wanted' list before his arrest and conviction.

"The Nevada State Contractors Board is proud of its relationship with law enforcement and district attorneys' offices throughout the state. We extend our appreciation to the White Pine D.A.'s office for its cooperation," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "Their support of the Board's public safety initiatives sends a clear message that unlicensed contracting activities are serious crimes and will not be tolerated in our state."

NSCB encourages anyone who comes across unlicensed contracting activities to report the information to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838**. Details to provide the Board, when available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, address (business and/or physical location where work is being performed), phone number, vehicle description, license plate, business card and/or advertisement, contracts signed by the unlicensed individual, etc.

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