



NSCB News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2016

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CONSUMER ALERT – MICHAEL DELBRIDGE **UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR FACING FELONY CHARGES** **STILL PREYING ON HOMEOWNERS**

HENDERSON, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board is issuing a Consumer Alert to warn southern Nevada residents, specifically those located in and around North Las Vegas, that unlicensed contractor and convicted felon, Michael Delbridge, is back out in the community and taking advantage of unsuspecting homeowners.

In the two weeks since his release, the Board has received three additional complaints from homeowners that Delbridge has taken their money with little to no work performed. Each of these cases are pending approval from the District Attorney's Office to prosecute on related unlicensed contractor charges.

"Repeat offenders like Mr. Delbridge are the very reason the Contractors Board exists," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi A. Grein. "It is easy for an unsuspecting homeowner to become victimized by a well-versed salesman, which is why we want to caution the public that if it sounds too good to be true, it often is. The Board offers a free online resource to verify a contractor's license, and we want everyone to perform this fact check prior to hiring an individual to work on your home."

Delbridge has preyed on unsuspecting homeowners, usually seniors, by claiming to be a licensed contractor, underbidding the job, promising to absorb the cost of all fees and permits associated with the project, and asking for a 50% cash deposit so he can take advantage of his "vendor sales" allowing the homeowner to get a better deal on materials. Delbridge then performs a small percentage of the work using hired help in most cases and then abandons the project.

After abandoning, Delbridge has offered his victims a refund of all or part of the homeowner's money, yet has failed to do so, generally citing a number of excuses including that he is dealing with health issues; he and/or

his daughter's vehicles have a number of mechanical problems he is trying to resolve; his foreman is ill; or he can't refund the money because the bank is holding his funds.

Delbridge has operated under the names, "Southwest Construction," "Roadrunner Construction," and "Michael Delbridge Construction." On April 22, 2015, Delbridge pleaded guilty to felony charges of engaging in business without a license. He has been the subject of the Board's criminal investigations since 1994, amassing more than 17 unlicensed contracting cases with the Board. Delbridge's offenses have included allegations of posing as a licensed contractor, obtaining funds under false pretenses, diversion of funds, and victimizing vulnerable persons. Delbridge is currently awaiting judgment on three court cases with Las Vegas Justice Court scheduled for Feb. 16, Feb. 25, and Mar. 2.

The Board encourages anyone looking to have work performed on their home to always verify a contractor's license number on the Board's website or contact the Board directly at (702) 486-1100 before signing a contract. Homeowners who hire licensed contractors receive the Board's full protections should something go wrong during the course of a project, and may be eligible for the Board's Residential Recovery Fund, which can award up to \$35,000 in financial recourse to damaged homeowners.

Anyone with information on suspected unlicensed contracting activities should contact the **NSCB Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838**. If available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, business address, project location, phone number, and vehicle make, model, color and license plate number. When contracting for home repair and maintenance projects, always verify the contractor's license number on NSCB's website at www.nscb.nv.gov.

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MEDIA NOTE: Attached .jpg of Delbridge for media use only.

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