



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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OFFICE MANAGER FOR THE PASSAIC COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTIONS ARRESTED IN THEFT SCHEME

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: June 1, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces that on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, members of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Public Integrity Unit, along with members of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Inspector In-Charge David Collins, arrested the Office Manager employed by the County of Passaic Superintendent of Elections. The two-month joint investigation revealed a scheme perpetrated by Yanira Martinez in which she utilized a County of Passaic clearing account to fund accounts maintained by the United States Postal Service that were to be used for pre-paid county mail. The investigation demonstrated that she would purposely over-fund the pre-paid mail accounts. Once the United States Postal Service deducted the amount owed for mailing, Yanira Martinez would then request a refund of the outstanding balances in the accounts maintained by the United States Postal Service. These refunds were issued via check and were ultimately deposited into her personal bank account. It was revealed that the scheme perpetrated by Yanira Martinez began in February of 2008 and continued until her arrest. Over this period of time, she stole approximately \$384,000.00 from the County of Passaic.

Yanira Martinez, age 32, of Ridgefield, New Jersey, is charged with official misconduct, a crime of the second degree, and theft by deception, a crime of the second degree.

This is an on-going and active investigation. Any questions should be directed to Senior Assistant Prosecutor Paul A. Di Lella. He can be reached at 973-837-7683 or 862-849-6033 or Pdilella@passaiccountynj.org.

It should be noted that the charges against Yanira Martinez are merely allegations and that she is presumed innocent of the charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.