



NEWS RELEASE

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PAROLE OFFICER ARRESTED IN CORRUPTION SCHEME

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY: April 26, 2010

On Monday, April 26, 2010 members of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Public Integrity/Organized Crime Unit, along with members of the Office of Professional Standards of the New Jersey State Parole Board arrested a six year veteran parole officer employed with the New Jersey Division of Parole. The joint investigation revealed that Senior Parole Officer Edwin Muniz was involved in a scheme whereby he persistently solicited a parolee that he supervised for prescription pain medication, specifically Oxycodone. The parolee was employed as an administrative assistant in a physician's office specializing in pain management. As such, Senior Parole Officer Edwin Muniz believed that the parolee had access to prescription pain medication. While supervising the parolee, Senior Parole Officer Edwin Muniz repeatedly and routinely sought the assistance of the parolee to illegally obtain prescription pain medication. Recently, Senior Parole Officer Edwin Muniz indicated to the parolee that approval of upcoming travel plans of the parolee was contingent upon the delivery of the pain medication sought by the officer. This demand resulted in the parolee making a complaint to the Office of Professional Standards of the New Jersey State Parole Board who in turn contacted the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, Public Integrity/Organized Crime Unit to initiate the joint investigation.

Edwin Muniz, age 44, of Haledon, New Jersey, is charged with official misconduct, a crime of the second degree, and acceptance of an unlawful benefit by a public servant for official behavior, a crime of the second degree. His bail has been set at \$50,000 with no 10% option.

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 Pdilella@passaiccountynj.org.

It should be noted that the charges against Parole Officer Edwin Muniz are merely allegations and that he is presumed innocent of the charges until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.