



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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**FORMER CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY TO THE PASSAIC COUNTY
SUPERINTENDENT OF ELECTIONS INDICTED ON OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT AND
THEFT CHARGES**

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

JUNE 6, 2011

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces on Monday, June 6, 2011, the Passaic County Grand Jury returned a three count indictment against Yanira Martinez charging her with one (1) count of Official Misconduct, a Second Degree crime, one (1) count of Theft by Deception, a Second Degree crime, and one (1) count of Theft, also a Second Degree crime.

Ms. Martinez misappropriated County of Passaic funds intended for the Office of the Superintendent of Elections to her personal bank accounts. Ms. Martinez was employed as the Confidential Secretary to the Passaic County Superintendent of Elections. The indictment alleges a total theft in excess of \$380,000.

The charges in the indictment stem from an investigation beginning in April of 2010 involving the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office Public Integrity Unit, and the United States Postal Inspector's Office, which revealed that Ms. Martinez had been depositing checks issued to the County of Passaic into her personal accounts. The investigation covered a two year time period from February of 2008 through April of 2010. Search warrants were executed on the home of Ms. Martinez in Ridgefield, New Jersey and her workplace in Paterson, New Jersey on the morning of June 2, 2010. Evidence pertaining to the unlawful purchase of merchandise using Postal Service reimbursement checks as well as municipal reimbursement checks intended for the County of Passaic was recovered.

Ms. Martinez was arrested last year at the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office by members of the Public Integrity Unit. Paterson Municipal Judge Joaquin Calcines, Jr. set bail at \$50,000 with no 10% option.

Each count in the Indictment has a maximum penalty of ten years in New Jersey State Prison. Additionally, the Official Misconduct charge carries a mandatory five year parole disqualifier.

It must be noted that the charges against Ms. Martinez are merely accusations and she is presumed innocent of the charges until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

For further information please contact Chief Assistant Prosecutor J. Patrick McCabe at (973) 837-7763 or pmccabe@passaiccountynj.org.