



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI STATEMENT ON PRISON SENTENCE OF EX-STAFFER OF FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR  
FOR DEFRAUDING A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AS A NO-SHOW EMPLOYEE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing today of MIGUEL CASTANOS to 10 months in prison for defrauding the not-for-profit Community Association of Progressive Dominicans of nearly \$34,500 as a "no show" employee. CASTANOS was a staffer of former New York State Senator Efrain Gonzalez, Jr., and is one of four convicted defendants in the case. CASTANOS pleaded guilty to wire fraud in April 2009 and is the third defendant to be sentenced. The office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "No-show jobs and not-for-profits don't mix. Today's sentencing shows that insiders who pillage publicly-funded, tax-exempt organizations will face criminal sanctions, including prison. DOI and its law enforcement partners are committed to protecting these publicly funded entities and ensuring that individuals who engage in this kind of corruption are brought to justice."

The three other defendants convicted in the case are:

- Efrain Gonzalez, Jr. pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Mail Fraud in May 2009 and is scheduled to be sentenced on November 13, 2009.
- Neil Berger, the former Executive Director of Pathways for Youth, Inc., was sentenced in June 2009 to two years' probation and six months of home detention for federal program fraud.
- Lucia Sanchez, the former officer of West Bronx Neighborhood Association, was sentenced earlier this month to two years' probation and three months of home detention for willfully causing the misapplication of federal program funds.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Ronald J. Verrochio, Inspector in Charge of the New York Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, and their staffs, for their work on this matter.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

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