

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/16/2005

**STATE POLICE MAKE ARRESTS
IN ON-GOING MOTOR VEHICLE FRAUD INVESTIGATION.**

The investigation into Bribery & Fraudulent Drivers Licenses that had been issued from the Bridgeport Office of the DMV is continuing. Arrest Warrant were issued and served on the accused listed. Two (2) Search Warrants were also executed as suspect's residences. Additional investigation is continuing with more arrests anticipated.

12/15

#1) ARRESTED: Venita BINES AGE: 41

722 Williams Street, Bridgeport, CT.

Arrested on Warrant on 12/15/2005 when she was arraigned at Bridgeport Superior Court. (BINES is presently incarcerated on two (2) earlier arrests from this investigation).

CHARGES: (Total of 51 separate charges)

- 1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts)
(Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)**
- 2) Receiving a Bribe (14 Counts),**
- 3) Bribery (7 Counts),**
- 4) Conspiracy to Receive Bribes (7 Counts)**
- 5) Forgery 2nd degree (14 Counts)**
- 6) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)**

BOND: ~~\$500,000.00~~ COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/15/2005
250,000

12/15
2005

#3) ARRESTED: Elaine LOPEZ **AGE: 40**

360 Davidson Street, Bridgeport, CT.

Arrested on Warrant on 12/15/2005 when she was arraigned at Bridgeport Superior Court. (LOPEZ is presently incarcerated on an earlier arrest from this investigation).

CHARGES: (Total of 88 separate charges)

1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts) (Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)

2) Bribery (36 Counts),

3) Forgery 2nd degree (26 Counts)

4) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)

5) Criminal Liability / Forgery 2nd degree (17 Counts)

BOND: \$500,000.00 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/15/2005

#4) ARRESTED: Daisy LIMA **AGE: 35**

301 Andrassy Avenue, Fairfield, CT.

Arrested on Warrant on 12/16/2005.

CHARGES: (Total of 90 separate charges)

1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts) (Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)

2) Bribery (37 Counts),

3) Conspiracy to Commit Bribery (7 Counts)

4) Forgery 2nd degree (31 Counts)

5) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)

6) Criminal Liability / Forgery 2nd degree (6 Counts)

BOND: \$500,000.00 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/19/2005

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#6) ARRESTED: Charles (Chuckie) RUBANO AGE: 55

96-4 Cosey Beach Avenue, East Haven, CT.

Arrested on Warrant on 12/16/2005.

CHARGES: (Total of 82 separate charges)

1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts)
(Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)

2) Bribery (36 Counts),

3) Conspiracy to Commit Bribery (4 Counts)

4) Forgery 2nd degree (32 Counts)

5) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (4 Counts)

6) Criminal Liability / Forgery 2nd degree (4 Counts)

BOND: \$500,000.00 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 1/3/2005

#7) ARRESTED: Richard (Richie) TRAMONTANO AGE: 42

408 Burr Street, New Haven, CT.

Arrested on Warrant on 12/16/2005.

CHARGES: (Total of 84 separate charges)

1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts)
(Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)

2) Bribery (36 Counts),

3) Conspiracy to Commit Bribery (5 Counts)

4) Forgery 2nd degree (31 Counts)

5) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (5 Counts)

6) Criminal Liability / Forgery 2nd degree (5 Counts)

BOND: \$500,000.00 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/16/2005

12/15 #8) ARRESTED: Jannette R. RODRIGUEZ

56 Diane Terrace, Waterbury, CT. AGE: 33

Arrested on Warrant on 12/15/2005

CHARGES: (Total of 38 separate charges)

1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts)
(Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)

2) Receiving a Bribe (7 Counts),

3) Conspiracy to Receive Bribes (7 Counts)

4) Bribery (8 Counts),

5) Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)

6) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)

BOND: 250,000 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/16/2005

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12/15 #9) ARRESTED: Hector R. PORTILLO AGE: 53

360 Palisade Avenue, C-2, Bridgeport, CT. 06610

Arrested on Warrant on 12/15/2005

CHARGES: (Total of 40 separate charges)

- 1) C.O.R.A. (Corrupt Organizations and Racketeering Activity) (2 Counts) (Specifically related to Bribery and Forgery 2nd.)
- 2) Receiving a Bribe (7 Counts),
- 3) Conspiracy to Commit Bribery (8 Counts)
- 4) Bribery (8 Counts),
- 5) Forgery 2nd degree (7 Counts)
- 6) Conspiracy to Commit Forgery 2nd degree (8 Counts)

BOND: 250,000 COURT: GA# 2 Bridgeport on 12/16/2005

The Execution of these Arrest Warrants and Search Warrants is part of the continuing investigation into corruption and bribery at the Bridgeport Office of the DMV.

The investigation is being conducted by the Connecticut State Police – Motor Vehicle Fraud Task Force with the assistance of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, the Chief States Attorney's Office, The U. S. Marshal's Service, the Immigration and Custom Enforcement (I.C.E.) division of the United States Department of Justice. Also the Social Security Administration, the United States Postal Service and the State Department.

The investigation is targeting people who are suspected of conspiring to arranged for other subjects to obtain Fraudulently Issued Drivers Licenses from former DMV Employee(s). At this time, four past and present DMV Employees have been arrested in this Investigation

The investigation has revealed that there are a total of 1584 suspected Fraudulent Issued Licenses that were issued from the Bridgeport Branch of the DMV from 2002 through 2004. Of those suspected Fraudulent Licenses, 600 have been completely investigated. 146 have been located and seized as Fraudulent issued Licenses. 116 have been cleared as being Validly issued licenses, most of those cleared licenses were clerical errors of renewals, Name Changes from Marriage or License transfers from Out of State.

An additional 338 Licenses have been revoked. These revoked licenses appear to have been fraudulently issued to people who are either illegally in this Country, who cannot be located and/or who have used non-existent identities or addresses.

This investigation is continuing with hundreds of additional Licenses being investigated as well as any present and former DMV Employee's suspected in the fraudulent issuance of Drivers Licenses and Non-Drivers Identification Cards.

Additional Arrests are anticipated as the investigation continues.

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Sgt. J. Paul Vance