



PRESS RELEASE

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Prepared by:
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Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Seeks Additional Victims of Immigration Fraud *Victims still coming forward after arrest made of Immigration Consultant operating illegally*

Santa Clara County, CA— The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Notario Fraud Investigations Unit is seeking the public's help to identify potential victims of immigration fraud. Sheriff's Office detectives arrested James Lopez on October 25, 2016 for illegally providing immigration services in Campbell, California. Detectives believe Lopez may have provided improper services to nearly 1000 individuals.

As recently as yesterday, reluctant victims are still coming into the Sheriff's Office to report they were victimized by Lopez. The Sheriff's Office determined James Lopez had a business office located at 1560 La Pradera Drive in Campbell, California. Lopez provided immigration services without the required Immigration Consultant clearance from the California Secretary of State and also did not have the required \$100,000 bond to operate the immigration consulting business. James Lopez, a former California attorney, resigned from the California State Bar in 2002 after multiple disciplinary matters.

The current investigation confirmed James Lopez continued to illegally provide immigration services and practiced law without a license. Some victims suffered significant financial losses and immigration delays as a result of services provided by Lopez. The Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office Lopez charged Lopez with various felonies including forgery, grand theft, and practicing law without a license.

Santa Clara County has a very diverse population comprised of immigrant families from various nationalities. It is critical that those in need of immigration services know that the providers they hire are both competent and are providing services that comply with legal standards. Local law enforcement is available to help families seek justice regardless of immigration status. Compliance with the Immigration Consulting laws provides the first step in safeguarding the community from fraudulent immigration services and incompetent services resulting in lost cases or deportation.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Notario Investigations Unit is dedicated to the investigation, arrest and successful prosecution of immigration fraud. For additional information about immigration service fraud, visit the Sheriff's Office Webpage located at: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff/Pages/Notario-Fraud-Unit.aspx>

If you are a victim of immigration service fraud, please call 408-808-4599 or email us at: Tips@Sheriff.sccgov.org

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