

PRESS RELEASE

Four Miami Residents Indicted for their Alleged Role in a Wire Fraud Scheme to Defraud the Federal Government

Monday, April 3, 2023

For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida

MIAMI – A federal grand jury has indicted, Maylin Salado Garcia, “Salado Garcia,” 34, Niubis Garcia, “Niubis Garcia,” 52, Oscar Enrique Pujadas, “Pujadas,” 32, and Sirce Rodriguez Rosales, “Rosales,” 38, residents of Miami, Fla., for their alleged participation in a wire fraud scheme to defraud the federal government out of more than \$250,000 of funds intended for workforce development programs. The charges include conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, conspiracy to commit theft of government funds, theft of government funds, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and aggravated identity theft.

According to the indictment, the defendants and their co-conspirators allegedly executed a scheme to enrich themselves by obtaining reimbursement of monies from federally funded programs and depositing the reimbursed federal funds into personal and corporate bank accounts they controlled for their own personal use. In furtherance of the scheme, the defendants and their co-conspirators used stolen personal identifying information (PII) to create false and fraudulent employee files (“participant files”) and wage records. These fake participant files and wage records were used as proof of employment showing that individuals were employed at companies the defendants and their co-conspirators owned and controlled, as well as other companies.

According to court documents, Salado Garcia worked at Transition, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation located in Miami-Dade County; first as a program supervisor, and then as executive director. Transition received federal grants of money through the state of Florida, which were used to provide job training and placement services in the community. Transition worked with, for example, the Miami-Dade County Corrections and Rehabilitation Department’s (MDCR) Boot Camp Reentry Program, a federally funded program designed to provide education and training to inmates transitioning out of prison. From around April 2017 and February 2019, while employed at Transition, Salado Garcia allegedly created participant files and wage records using stolen PII to obtain federal funds for work that was never performed and, in some cases, to employees who

were not employed at listed companies, and the few that did, received lower hourly wages than what Salado Garcia recorded in the participant files.

It is also alleged that Salado Garcia represented in the participant files that the employees purportedly worked at companies owned by her co-conspirators; her mother, Niubis Garcia, and her significant other, Pujadas. Additionally, Salado Garcia entered false payroll information into the Transition's web-based payroll processor, including bank accounts owned by her and her co-conspirator, Rosales, to receive direct deposit payments from the federally funded programs which were intended for the purported employees. In addition, Rosales provided Salado Garcia with stolen PII to create the fraudulent participant files, while Pujadas also cashed the fraudulently obtained reimbursement checks at a check cashing store.

Salado Garcia, Niubis Garcia, and Rosales made their initial appearances last week before U.S. Magistrate Judge Otazo-Reyes. If convicted, Salado Garcia faces a maximum sentence of up to 87 months in addition to 24 months consecutively in prison, Niubis Garcia faces a maximum sentence of up to 51 months in prison, and

Rosales faces a maximum sentence of up to 57 months in prison.

U.S. Attorney Markenzy Lapointe for the Southern District of Florida and Special Agent in Charge Mathew Broadhurst of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General (DOL-OIG), Southeast Region, announced the charges.

DOL-OIG investigated the case, with assistance from Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorney Yisel Valdes is prosecuting the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Annika Miranda is handling asset forfeiture.

An indictment contains mere allegations, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or at <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov> under case number 23-cr-20116.

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