



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 6, 2009**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
REBEKAH CARMICHAEL,
JANICE OH
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**DOI
DIANE STRUZZI
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 825-5931**

**EX-STAFFER OF FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD IN TAKING A "NO SHOW"
JOB WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced that MIGUEL CASTAÑOS, a former staffer of former New York State Senator EFRAIN GONZALEZ, JR., pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court to fraud in connection with taking a "no show" job with the Asociación Comunal de Dominicanos Progresistas ("ACDP"), also known as the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, a community organization that focuses on the needs of New York's Dominican immigrants.

According to Count Ten of the Superseding Indictment, the charge to which CASTAÑOS entered a plea of guilty; CASTAÑOS's plea allocution; and the Government's proffer during the plea proceeding:

MIGUEL CASTAÑOS is a former staffer for former State Senator EFRAIN GONZALEZ, JR. CASTAÑOS left his position on Senator GONZALEZ's staff in 2004 to pursue a business venture. After CASTAÑOS left Senator GONZALEZ's staff, Senator GONZALEZ asked the Executive Director of ACDP to give CASTAÑOS a job. The Executive Director did so, and CASTAÑOS accordingly appeared on ACDP's payroll from August 2004 to March 2006. However, the Executive Director and CASTAÑOS both understood that CASTAÑOS would be a "no show" employee of ACDP, meaning that he would be paid without having to report to work. As a result, from August 2004 to March 2006, CASTAÑOS defrauded ACDP of its right to his

honest services by submitting false timesheets for work that he had not done. Based on these fraudulent timesheets, CASTAÑOS received payments in excess of \$30,000.

CASTAÑOS, 48, of New York, New York, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud and faces up to 20 years in prison. CASTAÑOS is scheduled to be sentenced on July 6, 2009, by United States District Court Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III.

Mr. DASSIN commended DOI and the United States Postal Inspection Service for their assistance in the investigation.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys MICHAEL LEVY and PABLO QUIÑONES are in charge of the prosecution.

09-085

###