

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 06-163

RELEASE NUMBER

May 7, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY JOYCE E. DUDLEY, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Gary Gemberling, Deputy District Attorney

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

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District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced that this morning at 6:15 a.m., Mario Hernandez Serrano, aka Mario Serrano Hernandez, was arrested and charged with multiple counts of Felony Diversion of Construction Funds, Felony Grand Theft, Felony Tax Evasion, Contracting Without a License and Failing to Obtain Workers' Compensation Insurance. The arrest of Serrano was the result of a joint investigation by the Contractor's State Licensing Board, the Franchise Tax Board and Santa Barbara County District Attorney Investigators.

District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley commented that, "Unlicensed contractors who do not possess the experience and knowledge of licensed contractors can cause serious damage to a person's home and property. Another concern is the lack of insurance, especially Workers' Compensation Insurance, which can leave the homeowner liable if an individual is injured while working on the property at the direction of an unlicensed and uninsured individual."

Prosecuting Attorney Gary Gemberling stated that, "It is a crime to conduct business as a contractor if you are unlicensed and uninsured, except under very limited circumstances. If something like this has happened to a homeowner, they should contact local law enforcement, the Contractor's State Licensing Board or me at the District Attorney's Office."

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