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NEWS RELEASE

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NEW INDICTMENT CHARGES IN FUEL THEFT CASE

A Denver Grand Jury has handed down an indictment today against three men already charged in connection with a diesel fuel theft ring that targeted the Colorado Department of Transportation. The Grand Jury investigation has been ongoing, and the charges in the indictment will replace the earlier charges filed by Complaint and Information last month.

Jaime Perez (dob: 11-03-70) is charged by indictment with violating the *Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA)* (F2), *computer crime* (F3), three counts of *theft* (F3 and F4), three counts of *conspiracy to commit theft* (F4 and F5), *unauthorized use of a financial transaction device* (F3), *conspiracy to commit unauthorized use of a financial transaction device*, (F4), *possession of blank financial transaction devices* (F5), *conspiracy to commit possession of a blank financial transaction device* (F6), *manufacturing a financial transaction device* (F5), *conspiracy to commit embezzlement of public property* (F6) and *embezzlement of public property* (F5).

Asuncion Aguirre-Barron (dob: 07-07-69) is charged by indictment with violating the *Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA)* (F2), two counts of *theft* (F3 and F4), three counts of *conspiracy to commit theft* (F4 and F5), *unauthorized use of a financial transaction device* (F3), *conspiracy to commit unauthorized use of a financial transaction device*, (F4), *possession of blank financial transaction devices* (F5), *conspiracy to commit possession of a blank financial transaction device* (F6).

Fernando Ibarra-Gonzalez (dob: 05-30-67) is charged by indictment with two counts of *theft* (F3, F4) and *unauthorized use of a financial transaction device* (F4).

The charges allege that Perez, through his job as a heavy equipment operator for CDOT, cloned state fuel cards and provided them to Ibarra-Gonzalez and Aguirre-Barron, who used them to purchase large amounts of diesel fuel which they sold to others, primarily truck drivers. (Ibarra-Gonzalez and Aguirre-Barron were not CDOT employees.)

All three defendants remain in custody in the Denver County Jail. Bond is set at \$750,000 for Perez, who is also being held for a parole violation. Bond is set at \$500,000 for Ibarra-Gonzalez and Aguirre-Barron, who are also on ICE holds. Their next court date has not yet been set.