



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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THREE CHARGED IN FUEL THEFT CASE

Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey has formally charged three people in connection with a diesel fuel theft ring, accused of stealing fuel from the Colorado Department of Transportation. CDOT Executive Director Russ George requested the assistance of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation after a CDOT supervisor discovered the theft.

Jaime Perez (dob: 11-03-70), **Fernando Ibarra-Gonzalez** (dob: 05-30-67) and **Asuncion Aguirre-Barron** (dob: 07-07-69) are each charged with violating the *Colorado Organized Crime Control Act (COCCA)* (F2), *theft* (F3), *conspiracy to commit theft* (F4), *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 embezzlement of public property* (F6) and seven counts of *embezzlement of public property* (F5).

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. They are scheduled to appear in Denver County Court, room 472W, tomorrow, March 31, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. to be formally advised of the charges.

Numerous agencies have assisted in the investigation, including the Northglenn Police Department, Westminster Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, and the Colorado Department of Corrections. The investigation is still continuing.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6