Lori E. Frugoli District Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE District Attorney Lori E. Frugoli Telephone: (415) 473-6450 February 26, 2020

CONSUMER AND SENIOR ALERT

On Friday February 21, 2020, the Marin County District Attorney's Office Insurance Fraud Unit, in collaboration with the Marin County Probation Department Enforcement team, served arrest warrants on Novato resident Victor Mauricio Mendez Rodas for contracting without a license, failing to secure Workers' Compensation insurance, and violations of his probation.

The District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit began investigating Mr. Rodas in 2019 when the Unit determined that Rodas was performing contracting services for an 83-year-old homeowner in San Rafael. The homeowner reported that they became suspicious when Rodas demanded additional payments for unauthorized work and failed to get required permits for the work. The Insurance Fraud Unit determined that Rodas was not licensed by the Contractor's State Licensing Board and had failed to obtain Workers' Compensations insurance for workers at the job site.

According to court records, Mr. Rodas is currently on probation in Marin County for a 2017 conviction for unlicensed contracting work.

The Marin County District Attorney's Office would like to remind homeowners of the importance of working with licensed contractors any time they are considering a home improvement project. Homeowners can look up prospective contractors to ensure that they are licensed and insured at the Contractor's State Licensing Board's website www.cslb.ca.gov. Any Marin County residents who hired or were solicited by Mr. Rodas for contracting work are urged to contact the Marin County District Attorney's Office Insurance Fraud Unit at 415-473-6450.

Penalties for contracting without a license can include 6 months in county jail and a \$5,000.00 fine for first offense. Penalties for failing to secure Workers' Compensation insurance can include up to 1 year in jail and a minimum of a \$10,000.00 fine.