



NSCB News Release



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UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR STING RESULTS IN ONE ARREST, ENHANCED CHARGES AGAINST REPEAT OFFENDER

HENDERSON, Nev. – The Nevada State Contractors Board conducted two unlicensed contractor sting operations in Reno and Henderson resulting in the arrest of one suspect on an outstanding warrant and submittal of an affidavit against an alleged second-time offender. In all, NSCB criminal investigators wrote 14 citations and initiated criminal filings with local district attorney’s offices against five suspects during the day-long events.

In Henderson, Brian Scott Skwierczynski received citations for contracting without a license and unlawful advertising after he appeared at the sting house and offered a bid to build a stairway in excess of \$1,000. During the process, Board investigators and Henderson Police Department officers supporting the operation discovered outstanding warrants against Skwierczynski from both the Contractors Board and Henderson’s Traffic Bureau. The officers took him into custody.

“The Contractors Board appreciates the Henderson Police Department’s assistance in this month’s sting operation. The collaboration helps send a clear message of the seriousness of unlicensed contracting and the harms posed to members of our community because of it,” said NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. “Hiring unlicensed contractors deprives homeowners of many of their recourse options available through the Board, in addition to increasing their risk and liability when unlicensed individuals perform work in or on their homes.”

Jeffery Gill was also caught in the Henderson sting after bidding to perform electrical work. He was previously convicted of a similar offense in 2015. As this is his alleged second offense, Gill faces gross misdemeanor charges of contracting and advertising without a license. Board investigators prepared and submitted the case to the district attorney’s office.

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Three other suspected unlicensed contractors received citations at the Henderson sting house for illegal contracting and advertising: Elizandro Valencia-Zaragosa, who allegedly solicited landscape work requiring a license; Todd William, who allegedly offered plumbing work; and Ross Restivo, who allegedly offered painting and garage floor epoxying.

In Reno, Kevin McGilvery, dba K-Mac's Handyman, was cited for contracting without a license after investigators received a bid to install an independent electrical line from a panel box and install holiday light outlets, three security lights, a ceiling fan and a light switch. McGilvery was already the subject of a criminal investigation after the Board discovered he advertised his company's unlicensed electrical and plumbing service.

According to Nevada law, any electrical, plumbing, heating or air conditioning project requires a license. In addition, individuals operating as handymen are not allowed to advertise specific trades for which the Contractors Board issues licenses.

The Reno operation also issued citations to two suspects for contracting without a license after they allegedly submitted bids to lay stamped concrete sidewalks. Board investigators say Scott Clifton, doing business as Concrete Concepts and Masonry, calculated the project at 896 square feet and quoted a price of nearly \$33,000. They say Benjamin Benesch, dba Property Care Systems, estimated the same job at 1,222 square feet and a cost of just over \$18,000.

Nevada law states that any construction projects valued at \$1,000 or more, including labor and materials, must be performed by licensed contractors.

Others cited in the Reno sting were Eli Barbarin, dba The Right Touch, who investigators allege submitted a \$2,400 estimate for interior painting; and Jeffrey Laborgne, accused of providing a \$3,750 estimate for applying caulk and epoxy. Raul Nuno was cited for advertising without a license after investigators discovered his truck parked near the sting location displayed an advertisement for Raul Nuno Handyman Service and offered roofing and painting work.

Investigators followed leads generated from advertisements found on online billboards, such as Craigslist, and contacted the unlicensed individuals who illegally placed ads to perform construction work requiring a contractor's license under Nevada law.

The Contractors Board urges anyone who comes across unlicensed contracting activities to report the information to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838**. Details

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to provide the Board, when available, include the unlicensed contractor's name, address (business and/or physical location where work is being performed), phone number, vehicle description, license plate, business card and/or advertisement, contracts signed by the unlicensed person, etc.

Disclaimer – All alleged suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law.

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