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**EX-STAFFER OF FORMER NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
SENTENCED IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT TO
10 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR "NO SHOW" JOB**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and RONALD J. VERROCHIO, the Inspector-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service ("USPIS"), announced that MIGUEL CASTAÑOS, a former staffer of former New York State Senator EFRAIN GONZALEZ, JR., was sentenced today by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III to 10 months in prison for committing fraud related to a "no show" job with the Asociación Comunal de Dominicanos Progresistas ("ACDP"), also known as the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, a community organization that focused on the needs of New York's Dominican immigrants.

According to Count Ten of the Superseding Indictment to which CASTAÑOS pleaded guilty, CASTAÑOS's plea allocution, and statements made during the plea proceeding:

MIGUEL CASTAÑOS was a staffer for former State Senator EFRAIN GONZALEZ, JR. CASTAÑOS left his position on GONZALEZ's staff in 2004 to pursue a business venture. After CASTAÑOS left GONZALEZ's staff, GONZALEZ asked the Executive Director of ACDP to give CASTAÑOS a job. The Executive Director did so, and

CASTAÑOS accordingly appeared on ACDP's payroll from August 2004 to March 2006. However, the Executive Director and CASTAÑOS both understood that CASTAÑOS would be a "no show" employee of ACDP, meaning that he would be paid without having to report to work. As a result, from August 2004 to March 2006, CASTAÑOS defrauded ACDP of its right to his honest services by submitting false timesheets for work that he had not done. Based on these fraudulent timesheets, CASTAÑOS received payments in excess of \$30,000.

In addition to the prison term, Judge PAULEY sentenced CASTAÑOS to two years of supervised release and ordered CASTAÑOS to pay \$34,496 in forfeiture.

On June 25, 2009, Judge PAULEY sentenced co-defendant NEIL BERGER, the former Executive Director of Pathways for Youth, Inc. ("Pathways"), to two years of probation, including six months of home detention. On September 21, 2009, Judge PAULEY sentenced co-defendant LUCIA SANCHEZ, a former officer of West Bronx Neighborhood Association ("West Bronx"), to two years of probation and three months of home detention. Both BERGER and SANCHEZ were sentenced for committing federal program fraud with funds that Pathways paid to West Bronx purportedly for community service programs, but which, in fact, were used to pay GONZALEZ's personal expenses.

GONZALEZ is scheduled to be sentenced on November 13, 2009.

Mr. BHARARA commended the investigative work of DOI and USPIS and thanked them for their assistance.

This case is being prosecuted by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys PABLO QUIÑONES and MICHAEL LEVY are in charge of the prosecution.

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