



Orange County News

For Immediate Release
January 9, 2017

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District Attorney Hoovler Announces Guilty Plea in Labor Scam Case

Defendant Posed as Union Representative to Defraud Job Seekers

Orange County District Attorney David M. Hoovler announced today that on January 6, 2017, Michael Allocca, 57, of Washingtonville, pleaded guilty to the felony of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, in connection with a scam to defraud workers seeking jobs. The District Attorney's Office announced at the time of Allocca's guilty plea, that it will be recommending the maximum sentence of two to four years in state prison when Allocca is sentenced by Orange County Court Judge Robert H. Freehill on March 24, 2017. The District Attorney's Office will also be seeking an order requiring Allocca pay restitution to those he defrauded.

It was alleged that Allocca had posed as a union recruiter from Laborer's Union Local 731 and collected \$150 from at least twenty-four people to whom he had promised union jobs. To date thirteen of those victims have been identified. In fact, Allocca had no ties to the union. The District Attorney's Office and the Town of New Windsor Police Department are asking the public's help in identifying other victims who may have given Allocca money pursuant to this scheme. Anyone who believes they are a victim of this scam should call Investigator John Chivattoni at the Orange County District Attorney's Office at (845) 291-2050.

District Attorney Hoovler thanked the Town of New Windsor Police Department for their investigation and the arrest of Allocca.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Kerry Kolek.

"I have made it a priority under my administration to support Orange County's workers," said District Attorney Hoovler. "No one deserves to be victimized while they trying to earn money to support their families. My office regularly works with organized labor to ensure that workers are

not victimized. It is particularly reprehensible that someone would impersonate a union official in order to defraud those desperately seeking employment. My office will be recommending that this defendant be sentenced to the maximum state prison authorized for this crime.”

A criminal charge is merely an allegation that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



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