



DISTRICT ATTORNEY
KINGS COUNTY
350 JAY STREET
BROOKLYN, NY 11201-2908
(718) 250-2000
WWW.BROOKLYNDA.ORG

Kenneth P. Thompson
District Attorney

Office of Public Information
718-250-2300

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Brooklyn Contractor Indicted For Defrauding 70 Workers of Their Labor;
Failed To Pay Them Over \$100,000 For Demolition Work At Former Hospital**
*Construction Company Owner Charged With Scheming To Defraud,
Violating Workers' Compensation and Labor Laws*

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson today announced that a Brooklyn contractor who promised permanent jobs and health care to more than 70 workers who helped him perform construction work at a former hospital has been charged with defrauding them of more than \$100,000 in wages.

District Attorney Thompson said, "This defendant preyed on and exploited people who needed to work to provide for their families and denied them wages that they rightfully earned after weeks of labor. We will not allow the hardworking people of Brooklyn to get ripped off by anyone, including any dishonest employer.

"This is the first action brought by our new Labor Frauds Unit, which investigates and prosecutes employers and others who commit fraud against workers--including violations of wage and hour rules, unemployment insurance fraud, workers' compensation laws and labor trafficking--to ensure fair and competitive workplaces in Brooklyn."

The District Attorney said that the defendant, Anthony Miller, 51, most recently of Denver, Colorado, and his company, Bael Out Enterprises a/k/a Bale Out Enterprises, were arraigned today on an indictment charging them with two counts of scheme to defraud in the first degree, and one count each of a violation of Workers Compensation Law 52(1)(a) for failure to secure the payment of workers' compensation insurance for more than five employees within a twelve month period, and a violation of Labor Law 198-a, for failing to pay all employees in accordance with the Labor Law.

The District Attorney said that Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun set bail at \$50,000 and ordered the defendant to return to court on October 15, 2014. He faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

The District Attorney said that, according to the indictment, from November 2012 to February 1, 2013, Miller and Bale Out Enterprises employed over 70 people to perform demolition and construction work at the old St. Mary's Hospital at 170 Buffalo Avenue in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, telling workers that he planned to convert the building into a center for veterans' services, with housing, a medical clinic and daycare.

The District Attorney said that, according to the investigation, Miller promised to pay the workers \$12-20 per hour and up to \$56,000 for foremen. He also told the workers that they would have an ownership interest in the center and permanent jobs, training and healthcare once the work was completed. After working for two weeks without pay, the workers complained. Miller allegedly told them that he was waiting for a check to clear, that he would pay them extra money to compensate them for the late payments, and that he would give them raises if they kept working for him.

The indictment further states that Miller handed out checks to each of the workers on February 1, 2013. The checks were drawn on an account in the name of Bale Out Enterprises, over which Miller had sole authority, but there were no funds in the account. The workers were never paid for the work that they performed. Furthermore, as stated in the indictment, Miller never obtained workers' compensation insurance for the workers.

This case was investigated by Detective Investigator Loretta Rolon of the Kings' County District Attorney's Office, under the supervision of Supervising Detective Investigator Michael Seminara and Chief John Bilich.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Ugoeze Ukomadu and Meredith McGowan, Deputy Chief of the District Attorney's Labor Frauds Unit, under the supervision of Felice Sontupe, Chief of the District Attorney's Frauds Bureau, and William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the District Attorney's Investigations Division.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.