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Contact: Frank Mateljan
(213) 978-8340

L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES IN IDENTITY THEFT CASE INVOLVING UNLICENSED PHARMACIST

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City's chief prosecutor, today announced he has filed charges against a Whittier man who assumed the identity of a licensed pharmacist in order to secure a management position at Beyond the Pharmacy on Sunset Boulevard.

Benito Placencia, 49, was charged on counts of identity theft, fraudulently representing oneself to be a registered pharmacist, and acting as a manager of a pharmacy while not being licensed.

If convicted, Placencia could face more than one year in county jail and more than \$5,000 in fines.

The charges stem from an investigation done by the California Department of Pharmacy which uncovered the fraud by comparing actual license documents on file for the licensed pharmacist with the forged license that Placencia provided to his employer. Placencia had held the position of managing pharmacist for six months at the time of his arrest. Results of the investigation were forwarded to City Attorney Delgadillo's Corruption Fraud and Enforcement Unit for prosecution by Assistant City Attorney Don Kass.

Arraignment is set for July 2 in Department 81 of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

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