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STATE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATE HECTOR RAMIREZ PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY CHARGE IN VOTER FRAUD

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx politician and an aide have pleaded guilty for committing voter fraud in a 2014 New York State Assembly primary race and were sentenced to Conditional Discharge.

District Attorney Clark said, "The electoral process is an important part of any democracy and any actions attempting to undermine its integrity must and will be prosecuted by this office."

District Attorney Clark said Hector Ramirez, 61, who ran in several races for New York State Assembly, pleaded guilty today, November 22, 2016, before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett to second-degree Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, a D Felony. Ana Cuevas, 57, pleaded guilty to Disorderly Conduct. Both defendants were sentenced to a Conditional Discharge and as a condition for his plea, Ramirez will not be permitted to seek public office for the three-year duration of his Conditional Discharge.

According to the investigation, during Ramirez's 2014 run for State Assembly in the Bronx's 86th District, Ramirez and members of his campaign went door-to-door and deceived potential voters into signing absentee ballot applications. The Ramirez team took the applications to the Board of Elections and retrieved ballots for the voters, and then voted for Ramirez without the voter's knowledge.

It was initially believed Ramirez had won the primary election over Assemblyman Victor Pichardo before a recount was enacted and Pichardo was declared the winner.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Pishoy Yacoub, Deputy Director of the Litigation Training Unit, under the supervision of Wanda Perez-

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Maldonado, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, Stuart Levy, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Jean T. Walsh, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked the Bronx District Attorney Detective Investigators, specifically Lieutenant Rocco Galasso and Detective Investigator John Wall.

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