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KCDA Investigators and Partners Cite 12 Unlicensed Contractors During Undercover Operation

(Bakersfield) – Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a successful undercover operation targeting unlicensed contractors in Kern County. The operation took place on March 20, 2024, and March 21, 2024, in collaboration between the Kern County District Attorney’s Office, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB), and the California Department of Insurance.

During the operations, 12 individuals were cited with a Notice to Appear in court for conducting contracting activities without the required license. In addition, nine stop orders were issued during the operation where contractors failed to provide workers' compensation insurance for their employees.

Those cited submitted bids ranging from \$600 to \$6,500 for home improvement projects. The law requires a California contractor’s license to bid or contract for construction work exceeding \$500 in value, including materials and labor. In addition, the unlicensed contractors can also face additional charges for advertising their construction services without a license. It is against California law to advertise construction or home improvement work without a valid license in the advertised classification. If unlicensed individuals advertise contracting services, they must explicitly disclose their lack of licensure and cannot bid or contract for work valued at more than \$500.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; “Consumers are constantly faced with unethical business practices when hiring unlicensed contractors – costing them additional time and money to repair what is often subpar work. Enforcing contractor licenses is important to keep consumers safe, competition in the industry fair, and hold those accountable who try to short-cut the system.”

Consumers can check a contractor’s license status by conducting an “[Instant License Check](#)” on CSLB’s website. The search results reveal whether the contractor’s license is active and/or in good standing. CSLB’s [Find My Licensed Contractor](#) feature can also be used to build and download a list of qualified licensed contractors in a particular area.

To report suspected unlicensed contractor activities, please visit the CSLB website at www.cslb.ca.gov or contact CSLB at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752).

