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## Maintenance Employee Arrested for Alleged Insurance Fraud

By ROY ROMERO

(Nov. 2, 2004) Early today, Metro employee Paul Gonzales was taken into custody by California Department of Insurance investigators for alleged insurance fraud.

Gonzales was booked into the Los Angeles County Jail and is being held on \$60,000 bail. He will be arraigned in court Wednesday morning. A former service attendant at the Regional Rebuild Center, Gonzales resigned his position earlier this year.

Gonzales is charged with 10 felony counts, including grand theft, insurance fraud, forgery and altering medical records, presenting false written statements, and withholding information. All are violations of either the state insurance code or the penal code.

Gonzales initially filed a claim in January 2003 for a sore foot caused by his work boots. After months of treatment, his physician released him to return to work in June of 2003.

## Accused of lying

Gonzales is accused of lying to his doctor and to Metro by altering his Attending Physician Statements so he could remain off work and still receive Workers' Compensation benefits after his doctor had said he could go back to work.

Metro is seeking for \$35,000 in restitution connected with the alleged fraudulent claim.

Metro's Workers' Compensation Special Investigative Unit was responsible for the initial investigation before referring the case to the Los Angeles County District Attorney and the Department of Insurance.

The Unit also referred the matter to Gonzales' department for administrative disciplinary action.

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