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Former Service Attendant Pleads Guilty to Forgery, Workers' Comp Fraud

By PAM MURANO

(Feb. 23, 2005) Paul Gonzalez, a former service attendant at the Regional Rebuild Center, pled guilty, Tuesday, in Los Angeles Superior Court to three felony charges and one misdemeanor charge filed by the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

Gonzalez pled guilty to forgery, insurance fraud and Workers' Compensation fraud – all felonies under the California Penal Code – and to altering medical records, a misdemeanor.

Gonzales was sentenced to time served, based on the time he spent in custody subsequent to his arrest Nov. 2, 2004. He was also sentenced to three years' formal probation, 350 hours of community service and paid an initial restitution amount of \$15,000.

As additional restitution, the court ordered Gonzalez to forfeit to Metro an additional \$10,026 he would have received from a workers' compensation claim.

Gonzales was ordered to return to court April 20, 2005, for a progress hearing to finalize the terms of his probation and to ensure that he has registered with his probation officer and has begun his community service.

Gonzales resigned from Metro, in lieu of termination, in 2004.

Senior Investigator Roy Romero of Metro's Special Investigation Unit (SIU) investigated the case, prepared it for prosecution and was in court, Tuesday, to take custody of the court-ordered restitution. The SIU worked closely with the District Attorney's office on the case.