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CFO Jeff Atwater Announces Arrests of Five NBRC Roofing Company Employees for \$525,000 Insurance Fraud Scheme

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TAMPA – Florida Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater today announced the arrests of five NBRC Roofing Company employees for organizing a \$525,000 insurance fraud scheme. The Tampa-based company is accused of leaving 97 homeowners in Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota counties with unfinished roof repairs and liens on their homes after stealing insurance money intended to pay subcontractors.

"I am proud of our investigators for arresting these disgraceful criminals who took advantage of Florida families and robbed many from having a safe roof above their heads," said CFO Atwater. "These crooks must be held accountable for their crimes."

An investigation by the Department of Financial Services' Division of Insurance Fraud discovered the insurance scam involved visiting homeowners following a storm, convincing the homeowners roof repairs were necessary, helping the homeowners file insurance claims for repair and finally convincing the homeowners to give NBRC the sole right to make the repairs and the assignment of benefits for the insurance claim. But once NBRC was paid for insurance claim, the repairs would not be completed and the insurance money would be pocketed by NBRC employees.

The defendants are each charged with organizing a scheme to defraud, a first degree felony punishable by up to 30 years in prison. The defendants arrested today include:

- Frank Martin Pureber, Apollo Beach
- Carlton D Dunko, Tampa
- Stacy Lynn Dunko, Tampa
- Joel Samuel Deserio, Tampa
- Alexander Josue Gomez, Riverview

Additional arrests are expected to be made of the following individuals:

- Eric Shane Johnson, Bradenton
- Christopher Michael Rios, Brandon
- Benjamin Zebulon Matthews, Lakewood Ranch

The cases will be prosecuted by the Office of Statewide Prosecution.

"My Office of Statewide Prosecution will aggressively prosecute these individuals for their alleged role in an insurance and construction fraud scheme that preyed upon Florida homeowners," said Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Anyone with information about suspected insurance fraud is asked to call 1-800-378-0445. Citizens who provide tips can remain anonymous. The Department of Financial Services to date has awarded almost \$349,000 to nearly 60 citizens as part of its Anti-Fraud Reward Program. The program rewards individuals up to \$25,000 for information that directly leads to an arrest and conviction in an insurance fraud scheme.

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Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater, a statewide elected official, oversees the Department of Financial Services. CFO Atwater's priorities include fighting financial fraud, abuse and waste in government, reducing government spending and regulatory burdens that chase away businesses, and providing transparency and accountability in spending.

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