



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE
ARRESTED

Update 6/09/2017:

On several occasions suspect Arena conspired with two acquaintances to profit from the sale of goods that he used his city-issued purchasing card to acquire. Both Ronald Newby, W/M, 11/26/1957, a resident of the City of Coconut Creek, and his son, Brian Newby, W/M, 04/18/1993, also of the City of Coconut Creek, were aware that Arena was a City of Fort Lauderdale employee and that the items that they sold were the property of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

On Thursday, June 8th, 2017 Brian Newby was taken into custody and charged with the following:

- 10 Counts of False Verification of Ownership less than \$300
- 17 Counts of False Verification of Ownership greater than \$300
- 28 Counts of Dealing in Stolen Property

On Friday, June 9th, 2017 Ronald Newby was taken into custody and charged with the following:

- 1 Count of False Verification of Ownership less than \$300
- 8 Counts of False Verification of Ownership greater than \$300
- 9 Counts of Dealing in Stolen Property

Original 6/02/2017:

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department arrested a former Fort Lauderdale Public Works employee, Thursday, June 1st, at approximately 9:00 A.M. The arrest was the result of a lengthy investigation into public corruption and grand theft by the Economic Crimes Unit.

The investigation was initiated when the City of Fort Lauderdale discovered discrepancies with the city employee's city issued purchasing card. On several separate occasions expensive tools and equipment were purchased and then sold for self-profit.

“Our police department immediately launched this investigation when we were made aware of the allegations against Mr. Arena that ultimately resulted in his arrest. This demonstrates the city’s ongoing efforts to maintain the highest standards of conduct throughout our organization and our commitment to take appropriate action when any wrongdoing is suspected,” Mayor Seiler said.

The investigation was focused on former city employee; Joseph Arena, W/M, 09/03/1959, a resident of the City of Margate.

Arena was employed with the City of Fort Lauderdale during the time these crimes were committed. Arena has been charged with the following:

- 1 Count of Grand Theft
- 1 Count of Official Misconduct
- 11 Counts of False Ownership Pawn
- 14 Counts of Dealing in Stolen Property

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