

## CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

(954) 828-5464 KCollins@fortlauderdale.gov

June 18, 2008

## UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR ARRESTED

(Theft of \$63,500)

\*\* Photo attached

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department has charged 48 year-old Julio Cesar Remon with Unlicensed Contracting and Grand Theft in connection with the theft of \$63,500.

In 2006, the victim Deokee Dabideen, hired Remon to remodel and add an addition to her home located at 321 Delaware Avenue. She "hired" Remon to be the contractor of this \$150,000 endeavor. She paid an initial deposit of \$20,000 and Remon began the work, but not for long. The work was stalled for over 11 months as Remon cited "permit" issues. What was unknown to the victim at the time was that Remon was not licensed to pull permits. Eventually, Remon fraudulently acquired the necessary permits and continued the work. After some progress, the work stalled again and Ms. Dabideen called police.

Detective Estelle Abrams, who specializes in unlicensed contracting crimes, met with Ms. Dabideen who had by that time paid over \$115,000 to Remon. Detective Abrams learned that Remon was unlicensed in Florida and was fraudulently acting as a contractor. During this investigation, Remon fled the area and had not been seen.

The work completed by Remon was valued at \$56,500 but the victim paid \$115,000. Additionally, the work was done improperly and must be corrected at the victim's expense.

After months of searching for Remon, Detective Abrams found information pointing to a possible location in Palm Beach County where Remon was hiding out. With the assistance of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, Remon was located and arrested.

Anyone who may have been a victim of Julio Cesar Remon is encouraged to contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department.



###