

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

June 8, 2011

Guilty plea to defrauding NYC Transit Authority

The Massapequa operators of a Suffolk County fence company pleaded guilty today to scheme to defraud charges for submitting false invoices to the New York City Transit Authority over a five year period (2003-2008).

Richard Guercia and Mary Murchison-Guercia, the principals of American Chain Link and Construction, inflated the cost of the materials for the fencing projects and created false records to support the fictitious billing. After pleading guilty to a misdemeanor charge of scheme to defraud in the second degree, the couple will serve three years' probation and forfeit \$60,000 in NYC transit authority payments.

An investigation conducted by the office of MTA Inspector General and the Suffolk County District Attorney's office uncovered the scheme. The firm constructed fencing at New York City Transit Authority sites.

A plea of guilty to one charge of grand larceny third degree was also entered for the corporation which will subject the American Chain Link charter to possible revocation following a review by state law enforcement. The felony plea effectively bans the company from doing business again with the New York City Transit Authority and the city of New York.

SCDA COMMUNICATIONS

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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



Richard Guercia
DOB: 11-24-1955



Mary Murchison-Guercia
DOB: 07-13-1956