



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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OWNERS OF MEDICAL TRANSPORT COMPANIES SERVING THE ADIRONDACK AND CAPITAL REGION PLEAD GUILTY TO THEIR PART IN MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR HEALTH CARE FRAUDS AND CONSPIRACIES

*Owner of Transport Company Based in Ticonderoga Guilty of Federal Health Care Conspiracy
Counts and Ordered to Pay More Than \$550,000 Restitution*

ALBANY – New York State Workers Compensation Fraud Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York Grant C. Jaquith, and Acting New York State Police Superintendent Keith M. Corlett today announced the guilty pleas of two taxi and transport company owners for their parts in multi-million Medicaid and Workers' Compensation frauds involving nearly a dozen companies servicing the Adirondack and Capital regions.

The two were among 13 taxi and transport company owners and operators arrested last May on State and federal charges alleging millions of dollars in thefts and frauds against Medicaid and the Workers' Compensation system.

Arshad Nazir, 54, of Plattsburgh, the owner of Capital Medallion Inc. (DBA Avalanche Taxi), pleaded guilty in United States Court of the Northern District of New York in Albany today to the federal crimes of Conspiracy to commit Health Care Fraud and Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and to Pay Health Care Kickbacks, felonies. The plea agreement is contingent upon Nazir also pleading guilty at a later date in Essex County Court to the State charges of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and the Workers' Compensation Crime of Failure to Secure Workers' Compensation, both felonies. Nazir also must pay \$550,000 in restitution to the New York State Department of Health under the plea agreement. Nazir is expected back in federal court on June 18, 2019 for sentencing when he would face up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.

Muhammad N. Jahangir, 24, of Queensbury, an owner of Capital Cab Corporation, pleaded guilty last week in Ticonderoga Town Court to Petty Larceny and the Workers' Compensation Crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, both misdemeanors, while allocating in court that his criminal activities were performed while acting in concert with co-defendant Khurram Gondal. Charges against Gondal, of Ticonderoga, remain pending and Jahangir is due back in Town Court for sentencing on April 3, 2019 and is expected to pay \$17,600 in restitution.

The pleas and remaining charges are the result of a two-year joint state and federal investigation led by the New York State Police that included the execution of multiple search warrants and 13 arrests in May 2018. The allegations included billing Medicaid for trips that never occurred, bribing Medicaid recipient patients with kickbacks for using their specific transport companies, failing to provide employees of the transport companies

with required Workers' Compensation insurance, and filing documents falsely certifying required Workers' Compensation coverage in order to provide Medicaid transport services. Altogether, the charges allege multiple millions of dollars in fraudulent Medicaid billings and the investigation is ongoing.

Medicaid is a county, state and federally funded benefit program providing health care coverage for individuals with limited income.

"These first pleas and restitution orders send a clear message that corrupt medical transport companies will be held accountable," said **Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Leahy Scott**. "These taxi companies plagued the Northway corridor for years and I thank my local, State and federal law enforcement partners for their extraordinary work throughout this two-year investigation in putting an end to these criminal practices and protecting the integrity of critical public benefits meant only for those who truly need them."

"Today's guilty plea is proof that we will not tolerate the actions of those willing to victimize their customers in order to steal millions of taxpayer dollars," said **New York State Police Acting Superintendent Corlett**. "This was a complex, two-year long investigation that would have been impossible without the cooperation of our state, federal and local partners. I want to thank our members and partners for their hard work on this case."

The companies involved provide medical transport services throughout the eastern Adirondack and Capital regions.

The transport companies involved in the alleged schemes include:

- Four-Way Taxi Inc., based in Ticonderoga;
- I-87 Transporters (DBA A-1 Taxi), based in Keeseville;
- Green Mountain Medical Transportation Inc. (DBA Green Mountain Taxi), based in Ticonderoga;
- Capital Cab Corporation, based in Queensbury and Ticonderoga;
- All NY Taxi & Limo Inc., based in Ticonderoga;
- Moriah Cab Service., Inc., based in Port Henry;
- Adirondack Taxi & Limo, based in Ticonderoga;
- Ti Taxi Inc., based in Ticonderoga;
- Advantage Medical Transport, Inc., based in Ticonderoga;
- Capital Medallion Inc. (DBA Avalanche Taxi);
- Tukk Simpson DBA Crown Point Cab, based in Crown Point.

The other individuals arrested and their charges include:

Khurram Gondal, 38, of Ticonderoga, an owner of Four-Way Taxi Inc., Green Mountain Medical Transportation Inc. (DBA Green Mountain Taxi), Capital Cab Corporation, and All NY Taxi & Limo Inc.

- Conspiracy to commit health care fraud in violation of United States Code.
- Grand Larceny in the First Degree, a felony.
- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree (three counts), a felony.
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree (four counts), a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, two counts charged as a felony and two counts charged as a misdemeanor.

Waqas Nauman, 36, of Queensbury, is an owner of Green Mountain Medical Transportation Inc. (DBA Green Mountain Taxi).

- Conspiracy to commit health care fraud in violation of United States Code.

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Samone Marshall, 28, of Ticonderoga, an owner of All NY Taxi & Limo Inc.

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a misdemeanor.

Sana Ullah Chaddher (also known as Sana Ullah), 55, of Ticonderoga, an owner of Chaddher Imports, Inc. (DBA Adirondack Taxi & Limo).

- Grand Larceny in the First Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Quaiser Gondal, 46, of Ticonderoga, an owner of Ti Taxi Inc.

- Conspiracy to commit health care fraud and knowingly and willfully offering to pay bribes and kickbacks to Medicaid beneficiaries in violation of United States Code.
- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Saleem Hayat, 35, of Port Henry, an owner of Moriah Cab Service., Inc

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Maryam Qaiser, 41, of Ticonderoga, an owner of Advantage Medical Transport, Inc.

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Chaudary Kahn, 55, of Keeseville, an owner of I-87 Transporters (DBA A-1 Taxi).

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- The Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, charged as a felony.

Khalid Chaddher, 48, of Ticonderoga, an owner of Chaddher Imports, Inc. (DBA Adirondack Taxi & Limo).

- Conspiracy to commit health care fraud and knowingly and willfully offering to pay bribes and kickbacks to Medicaid beneficiaries in violation of United States Code.
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony.

Anthony Armstrong, 29, of Port Henry, manager of Ti Taxi Inc.

- Conspiracy to commit health care fraud and knowingly and willfully offering to pay bribes and kickbacks to Medicaid beneficiaries in violation of United States Code.
- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.
- Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony.

Tukk Simpson, 48, of Crown Point, an owner of Tukk Simpson DBA Crown Point Cab.

- Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony.
- Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a felony.

Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York Grant C. Jaquith and his office for prosecuting the federal charges in these cases, the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit and Troop B for their work investigating these cases, Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly and her office for prosecuting the State charges, Essex County District Attorney Kristy Sprague and her office for their assistance with the investigation and prosecutions, and The Federal Bureau of Investigations for their assistance on the investigations.

Others assisting with the investigations include the New York State Joint Task Force on Employee Misclassification and Worker Exploitation, the New York State Department of Labor, the New York State Workers' Compensation Board's compliance division, Office of the New York State Comptroller Division of Investigations; New York State Attorney General's Office's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU); Essex County Sheriff's Office; U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); and the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS-OIG).

The charges are merely allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223