

**ARREST WARRANT FORM - 11<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT – MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**WARRANT TYPE:** AW

**CASE TYPE:** F

AWPS # 25-229

Refile indicator: NO

Court case number:

Division:

TO ALL AND SINGULAR SHERIFFS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, GREETINGS:  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO IMMEDIATELY ARREST THE DEFENDANT AND BRING HIM OR HER BEFORE ME, A JUDGE  
IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, TO BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO LAW.

<b>DEFENDANT'S NAME: (last)</b> Velazquez		<b>(first)</b> Sergio		<b>(middle)</b>		
STR/APT/CITY/ST/ZIP: [REDACTED]						
DOB: [REDACTED]	RACE: W	SEX: M	HEIGHT: 5'08"	WEIGHT: 185(est)	HAIR: Blk	EYES: Brn
SS #: [REDACTED]	CIN #:	SID #:	FBI #:	IDS #:		
scars, marks, tattoos (use FCIC/NCIC abbreviations):				IDS #:		
driver's license #:			ST: Florida			
veh tag #:	state:	make:	model:	year:	color:	
comments:						

\*\*\*\*\*  
BEFORE ME PERSONALLY CAME SPECIAL AGENT CHRISTOPHER VASTINE (AFFIANT), WHO, BEING DULY SWORN, STATES THAT THE DEFENDANT SERGIO VELAZQUEZ, DID COMMIT THE ACTS STATED IN THE ATTACHED STATEMENT OF FACTS, BASED UPON THIS SWORN STATEMENT OF FACTS, I FIND PROBABLE CAUSE THAT SERGIO VELAZQUEZ DID COMMIT THE CRIMES OF:

CHP/SEC/SUBS	INTENT/TYPE/DEGREE	COUNTS	VERSION	CHARGE NAME/DESCRIPTION	BOND AMOUNT
1	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Felony	1	896.104 (4) (a) (3)	Structuring transactions to evade reporting or registration requirements	10,000.00
2	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Felony	1	817.034 (4) (a) (1)	Organized Fraud	10,000.00
3	1 <sup>st</sup> Degree Felony	1	812.014 (1) (b)	Grand Theft	10,000.00
				<i>Total</i>	<i>30,000.00 w/ Wehbia</i>

IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CONTRARY TO FLORIDA STATUTES AND AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA.

POLICE CASE #: MI-14-0309 AGENCY #: 76 AGENCY NAME: Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
ASA'S APPROVAL INITIALS: *[Signature]* UNIT #: 86 MIN/MAN:  Not Charged/Not Filed  Charge Filed

**EXTRADITE INFORMATION**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Felony - Full extradition           | <input type="checkbox"/> B. Misdemeanor - Limited extradition                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Felony - Limited extradition                   | <input type="checkbox"/> C. Misdemeanor - Extradition - Surrounding states only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Felony - Extradition - Surrounding states only | <input type="checkbox"/> D. Misdemeanor - No extradition                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Felony - No extradition                        | <input type="checkbox"/> E. Misdemeanor - Pending extradition                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A. Misdemeanor - Full extradition                 |   |

SWORN TO BY AFFIANT:(name) SPECIAL AGENT CHRISTOPHER VASTINE Court ID #: 1003 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
+ loc code if Miami-Dade

SO ORDERED THIS 29 DAY OF May, 2025.  
*[Signature]* Miguel de la O

JUDGE IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
 FIRST APPEARANCE JUDGE MAY NOT MODIFY CONDITION OF RELEASE PER RULE 3.131(D)(1)(IV)  
(judge's initials) \_\_\_\_\_ BOND AMOUNT \$ 30,000.00 w/ Nebbia

- \*\*\*\*\*
- TO ANSWER UNTO THE STATE OF FLORIDA ON AN INFORMATION OR INDICTMENT FILED AGAINST HIM OR HER BY THE STATE ATTORNEY FOR THE CHARGE(S) OF:
- UPON ORDER OF A JUDGE IN THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR IN COURT TO ANSWER THE PENDING CHARGE(S) OF:

CHP/SEC/SUBS	INTENT/TYPE/DEGREE	COUNTS	VERSION	CHARGE NAME/description

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

STATE OF FLORIDA        }

COUNTY OF MIAMI-DADE        }

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF ARREST WARRANT (FDLE CASE MI-14-0309)

**BEFORE ME.** Miguel de la O, Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit Court, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, personally appeared Special Agent (SA) Christopher Vastine who being first duly sworn, depose and say that they have probable cause for the arrest of:

**Sergio Velazquez, W/M, DOB:** [REDACTED]

**Charge(s):**

- Count 1: Structuring Transactions to Evade Reporting or Registration Requirements,  
in violation of F.S.S. 896.104 (2) (a)  
(1st Degree Felony)
- Count 2: Organized Fraud,  
in violation of F.S.S. 817.034 (4) (a) (1)  
(1st Degree Felony)
- Count 3: Grand Theft,  
in violation of F.S.S. 812.014 (2) (a) (1)  
(1st Degree Felony)

**INTRODUCTION OF AFFIANT**

**YOUR AFFIANT, SA CHRISTOPHER VASTINE** from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Miami Regional Operations Center, has been a sworn Special Agent with FDLE since 1997. Your Affiant has attended numerous investigative courses throughout his career as a Special Agent. These courses have included general and specialized training in fraud, theft, narcotics, and money laundering investigations. Your Affiant was previously assigned to the South Florida Money Laundering Strike Force from 2003 through 2009 conducting money laundering investigations as part of a multi-agency task force. Your Affiant has been a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist through the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists

(ACAMS) since 2016 and has conducted numerous fraud and money laundering related investigations both before and after obtaining that certification. Your Affiant has also authored and executed several search warrants related to these types of crimes.

This affidavit is not intended to, and does not, set forth all the evidence gathered in this matter. Rather, it is intended only to provide sufficient evidence to support a finding of probable cause that Sergio Velazquez (VELAZQUEZ) violated the above-referenced statutes. This affidavit is based on personal knowledge and information that I have received from my participation in this investigation.

### Case Summary

As will be described herein, VELAZQUEZ was the Chief of Police for the City of Hialeah Police Department (HPD) from 2012 until approximately November 8, 2021. This investigation has found that after VELAZQUEZ was relieved of duty, HPD was unable to account for large amounts of “petty cash” utilized by the HPD Special Investigations Section (SIS) for narcotics investigations that was disbursed during VELAZQUEZ’S tenure. In fact, between calendar years 2015 and 2021 approximately one hundred (100) “petty cash” checks were cashed totaling over \$2,800,000.00 to fund HPD-SIS investigations. Of that amount, only approximately \$209,000.00, or 7.3% was ever documented as legitimate SIS expenditures, leaving nearly \$2,600,000.00 unaccounted for.

In addition to missing “petty cash”, this investigation found that currency from narcotics related seizures and subsequent civil forfeitures was also missing and unaccounted for. More specifically, between calendar years 2016 and 2021, currency totaling over \$1,000,000.00 from twenty (20) court awarded civil forfeitures was also missing. These funds were derived from successful forfeiture actions undertaken by the HPD Legal Department. This currency was never submitted to the HPD property unit, instead held in a safe within VELAZQUEZ’S administrative suite pending culmination of the forfeiture proceedings. Upon receiving court orders for disbursement of these funds, which included depositing a portion into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETF),

VELAZQUEZ was notified directly by HPD legal staff of the court order. City of Hialeah Finance staff was unable to locate the missing forfeiture deposits. Additionally, this investigation analyzed the LETF account and the corresponding deposits were not found.

HPD policy regarding currency seizures required all currency seizures to be submitted and maintained by the HPD property section. As will later be described, this policy was altered by VELAZQUEZ and all currency from seizures as well as HPD-SIS "petty cash" was held in a safe within VELAZQUEZ'S administrative suite, to which VELAZQUEZ had direct access to, including the combination.

During this same time frame, bank accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ were used to deposit large amounts of US currency in amounts less than \$10,000.00 to avoid currency reporting requirements.

For the purposes of this affidavit, the following activity conducted between December 21, 2020, and November 30, 2021, will be specifically described throughout this affidavit. In summary, this investigation has determined that:

- Nine (9) "petty cash" checks totaling \$352,000.00 were issued and cashed to fund HPD-SIS investigations.
- Approximately \$307,000.00 of that amount is unaccounted for.
- Approximately \$526,000.00 in US currency seized by HPD that was court ordered to be deposited to the Law Enforcement Trust Fund was not.
- Approximately \$235,000.00 ordered by the court to be retained by HPD for investigative costs is largely unaccounted for.
- Over \$76,000.00 in currency seized by HPD between August 24, 2021, and October 8, 2021, was found to be missing from the original evidence packages.
- All told, over \$1,100,000.00 in currency is missing and/or unaccounted for from HPD in 2021 alone.

During this same time-period, your Affiant identified over 153 cash deposits totaling \$293,060.00 that were made into accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ while he was employed as the Chief of Police for the Hialeah Police Department. Many of these cash transactions were structurally deposited into bank accounts owned and controlled by VELAZQUEZ. This deposit method was conducted in a manner which disguised the actual amount of currency being deposited. This resulted in financial institutions failing to file CTRs pursuant to those transactions. Additionally, the currency deposits were almost always followed by payments to various credit card companies to offset credit balances previously incurred. In fact, of \$293,060.00 in cash deposits that were conducted into bank accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ in calendar year 2021, approximately \$265,000.00 in payments were subsequently made to credit card accounts and other creditors of VELAZQUEZ.

Finally, VELAZQUEZ had no other significant cash deposit activity after October 29, 2021, approximately 10 days prior to VELAZQUEZ being relieved of duty as Chief of Police of the Hialeah Police Department.

### **Statutes Violated**

#### **896.104 Structuring transactions to evade reporting or registration requirements**

Florida Statute 896.104 (1) states ...."the terms "structure" or "structuring" mean that a person, acting alone, or in conjunction with, or on behalf of, other persons, conducts or attempts to conduct one or more transactions in currency, in any amount, at one or more financial institutions, on one or more days, in any manner, for the purpose of evading currency transaction reporting requirements provided by state or federal law. "In any manner" includes, but is not limited to, the breaking down of a single sum of currency exceeding \$10,000.00 into smaller sums, including sums at or below \$10,000.00, or the conduct of a transaction, or series of currency transactions, at or below \$10,000.00. The transaction or transactions need not exceed the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold at any single financial institution on any single day in order to meet the definition of "structure" or "structuring" provided in this subsection."

Florida Statute 896.104 (2) (a) states: ...” A person may not, for the purpose of evading the reporting and registration requirements of chapter 560, chapter 655, or this chapter, or 31 U.S.C. s. 5313(a) or s. 5325, or any rules or regulations adopted under those chapters and sections, when some portion of the activity by that person occurs in this state: Cause or attempt to cause a person or financial institution in this state to fail to file an applicable report or registration required under those chapters and sections or any rule or regulation adopted under any of those chapters and sections”.

Florida Statute 896.104 (4)(a)(3) states: ...”A person who violates this section, if the violation involves financial transactions totaling or exceeding \$100,000 in any 12-month period, commits a felony of the first degree”.,

As will be described herein; Between June 7, 2021, and October 29, 2021, VELAZQUEZ conducted approximately sixty-one (62) structured cash deposits totaling \$140,240.00. This was done so by breaking down larger amounts of currency into cash deposits consistently under the \$10,000.00 threshold utilized to require the filing of a Currency Transaction Report (CTR). The deposits were conducted through the use of four (4) different bank accounts at four (4) different financial institutions with as many as three (3) institutions receiving cash deposits on the same day. By conducting the transactions in this manner, financial institutions were not required to file CTRs on these cash deposit transactions.

#### **817.034 Organized Fraud**

Florida Statute 817.034 defines “Scheme to defraud” as ..”a systematic, ongoing course of conduct with intent to defraud one or more persons, or with intent to obtain property from one or more persons by false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, endorsements of nonconsenting parties, or promises or willful misrepresentations of a future act.

Florida Statute 817.034 (4)(a)(1) states: “Any person who engages in a scheme to defraud and obtains property thereby commits organized fraud, punishable as follows: If the amount of

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property obtained has an aggregate value of \$50,000 or more, the person commits a felony of the first degree”.

As will be described herein; between June 2, 2021, and October 29, 2021, VELAZQUEZ utilized his position as Chief of Police in order to gain access to currency belonging to the City of Hialeah and systematically defraud the City of “petty cash” and court ordered civil forfeiture funds. These funds were stored in a safe within VELAZQUEZ’S administrative suite, which VELAZQUEZ had access and ultimate responsibility for as Chief of Police. During this time, nearly \$160,000.00 in “petty cash” went unaccounted for by HPD. Additionally, the whereabouts of court ordered forfeitures totaling approximately \$400,000.00 is unknown. Funds totaling approximately \$140,000.00 were then structurally deposited into accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ, allowing him to use these funds as he desired.

#### **812.014 Theft**

Florida Statute 812.014 (1)(a) states: “A person commits theft if he or she knowingly obtains or uses, or endeavors to obtain or to use, the property of another with intent to, either temporarily or permanently deprive the other person of a right to the property or a benefit from the property.”

Florida Statute 812.014 (2)(a)(1) states: “If the property stolen is valued at \$100,000 or more ..”the offender commits grand theft in the first degree, punishable as a felony of the first degree”

As previously stated, between June 7, 2021, and October 29, 2021, VELAZQUEZ utilized his position as Chief of Police in order to gain access to currency belonging to the City of Hialeah and systematically defraud the City of “petty cash” and court ordered civil forfeiture funds. These funds were stored in a safe within VELAZQUEZ’S administrative suite, which VELAZQUEZ had access and ultimate responsibility for as Chief of Police. During this time, nearly \$160,000.00 in “petty cash” went unaccounted for by HPD. Additionally, the whereabouts of court ordered forfeitures totaling approximately \$400,000.00 is unknown. Funds totaling approximately \$140,000.00 were then structurally deposited into accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ, allowing him to use these funds as he desired.

### The Investigation – Petty Cash

On November 24, 2021, FDLE received a complaint from City of Hialeah Police Department (HPD) Chief George Fuente (Fuente) regarding alleged theft during the previous HPD administration of Chief SERGIO VELAZQUEZ (VELAZQUEZ) from the City of Hialeah General Fund/Petty Cash account.

The initial complaint from Fuente involved the City of Hialeah General Fund/Petty Cash account, which was utilized to replenish cash for use by the HPD Special Investigations Section (SIS) to conduct protracted narcotics investigations. According to HPD, an audit found that between January 2013 and October 2021, approximately 147 “petty cash” checks were cashed totaling approximately \$3,200,000.00 to fund HPD investigations. The checks were requested by VELAZQUEZ through signed memorandums to the City of Hialeah Finance Department. The memorandums requested checks to be issued in various amounts up to \$40,000.00 “to fund ongoing, complex, and protracted confidential narcotics investigations.” Once approved, the checks were made payable to “Petty Cash Hialeah Police Dept” and cashed by HPD personnel, at SunTrust Bank (now known as Truist). According to HPD, there were very few records of the ultimate disposition of these funds.

Since providing this allegation, Fuente and other members of the HPD have been cooperating with this investigation. This cooperation has included supplying FDLE with numerous documents and records pertaining to the operation of the HPD SIS unit during the relevant time period. Some of these documents included HPD financial records, policies and procedures, general orders, and correspondence regarding currency seizures and petty cash checks.

Pursuant to the initial complaint, HPD SIS expense vouchers were obtained from HPD and subsequently analyzed. The analytical process included transferring the information contained within the vouchers into an Excel spreadsheet for financial analysis of documented SIS costs

associated with the SIS petty cash requests. This data was then utilized to create a summary of documented expenditures for each year from 2015 through 2022. During this specific timeframe, approximately \$2,843,185.16 in petty cash checks were requested by VELAZQUEZ and cashed for use by the HPD SIS unit. After analyzing the provided SIS Expense vouchers, it was determined that only \$209,229.33, or 7.3% of the \$2,843,185.16 in petty cash obtained was ever documented and reconciled as legitimate SIS expenditures.

According to the HPD “Standard Operating Procedures for Special Investigation Section”, Sections 7-1 through 7-2 “SIS has available to it a cash fund from which to draw monies for investigative purposes and needs.” This written procedure was issued in April 1987 and stayed in effect through March 2023, when it was modified by Fuente. The procedure provides an abbreviated list of approved expenditures, however, more importantly orders accountability of all monies spent from the investigative fund. In fact, pursuant to this policy, all monies spent from the investigative fund are to be approved in advance by a supervisor whenever possible and subsequently documented on an expense voucher. Additionally, the procedure states that a ledger book will be kept and used to log each expense voucher by item number. As previously documented, this procedure was not followed approximately 93% of the time during the seven-year review of documented SIS expenditures.

During the course of this FDLE investigation, it was learned that once the checks were issued, they would be cashed at an area SunTrust bank (now known as Truist) by various HPD SIS personnel, including Sergeant Manuel Montalvo. Montalvo was identified through bank surveillance camera footage cashing a “petty cash” check on November 4, 2021. The cash derived from these checks would then be placed in one of two safes (one for currency, one for narcotics) in an area of the HPD Chief’s administrative suite. Only certain personnel were known to have the combination for the safe, including the SIS Sergeant(s), Major Hubert Ruiz and VELAZQUEZ. Due to periodic personnel changes within the HPD-SIS unit, this investigation determined that there were only two individuals known to have access to the currency safe continuously between January 2016 and November 2021, namely Hubert Ruiz and VELAZQUEZ. Seven (7) different Sergeants served in SIS during different time periods, some of whom may have had access to the safe, none of whom remained during the entire period. This is important to note due to the fact that while personnel

inside the SIS unit changed, currency from “petty cash” and forfeitures continuously came up missing.

Between December 22, 2020, and November 4, 2021, analysis revealed nine (9) City of Hialeah “petty cash” checks totaling \$352,000.00 were cashed “to fund ongoing, complex, and protracted confidential narcotics investigations”. However, this investigation was only able to identify \$44,486.66 was documented in SIS expense vouchers during the same time period. This results in approximately \$307,551.44 in petty cash unaccounted for.

### **The Investigation – Missing Forfeitures**

In addition to petty cash, currency from HPD currency seizures made during SIS investigations was also placed in this safe. This is a deviation from HPD General Order 36.50 (L) (4), - issued June 3, 2011, and still in effect - whereby all currency seizures would be submitted to the HPD property section.

Based upon information obtained during sworn statements made in this case, the change in procedure was implemented by SERGIO VELAZQUEZ shortly after becoming the Chief of Police.

During a sworn statement taken from HPD Lieutenant Daniel Perez, it was learned that Commander Hubert Ruiz had contacted Perez on two occasions in the past regarding the combination of the currency safe. Perez, who was the Sergeant of SIS at the time, stated on two occasions, he intentionally changed the combination to the safe. On both occasions, two different Saturdays, Ruiz called him and demanded the new combination to access the contents. Perez complied with both requests and provided the new combination to Ruiz.

Additionally, Perez advised that he was told by HPD Lieutenant Orlando Salvat that he (Salvat) confronted VELAZQUEZ about money missing from a currency seizure. According to Perez, VELAZQUEZ advised Salvat that he (VELAZQUEZ) had taken the money from one money bag and put it in another money bag. This is a clear indication VELAZQUEZ had access to currency

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inside the safe, either through having the combination, or gaining access through another individual who had the combination.

This investigation also revealed that money from currency seizures had come up missing after being placed into the safe. During an interview of the HPD Business Manager, Johnerick Rojas, it was revealed that he had been called by current HPD Chief George Fuente shortly after VELAZQUEZ was relieved of duty as Chief of Police in November 2021. Rojas stated that Chief Fuente noticed the safe in the office. After obtaining the combination from VELAZQUEZ, the safe was opened and there were evidence packages with cash inside related to recent seizure/forfeiture cases. The packages were retrieved and taken to the property unit to be counted. Rojas stated that when the cash was counted, tens of thousands of dollars were missing.

Rojas also advised in his interview that he would be contacted by Velazquez to pick up money from forfeitures. Rojas stated that Velazquez would give him an envelope with cash inside, which Rojas would then count, prepare a deposit slip and take to the finance department to be deposited. Rojas stated that he became aware that HPD had different seizure/forfeiture logs when he received an email from HPD legal secretary Delilah Fonseca (Fonseca). Fonseca sent Rojas an email with a copy of a seizure/forfeiture log being used by the HPD legal department that was completely different from the seizure/forfeiture log that Velazquez sent to Rojas for the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETf) yearly report. During the interview, Rojas provided a copy of the HPD Legal Department log and explained that approximately twenty (20) of the listed cases with a dollar amount of approximately \$1,174,670.00 had been closed for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Rojas stated that he was unaware of any of those twenty (20) closed cases or the corresponding seizure/forfeiture funds that were seized and forfeited to HPD. Rojas stated that those funds were not processed by the property unit or included in the LETf yearly report. Rojas stated that those funds were missing and/or unaccounted for.

Rojas also stated he would be contacted by Velazquez about once a month to write a memorandum to City of Hialeah Finance Director Chiocca, requesting money from the finance department and be issued a check made payable to Petty Cash - Hialeah Police Department, for amounts up to

\$40,000.00. Rojas stated that he does not know what happened to the money after those checks were cashed.

During a sworn statement provided by current HPD Chief Fuente, he described the same event involving money missing from the safe as previously described by Rojas. According to Fuente, after he was appointed Interim Chief of Police, VELAZQUEZ showed Fuente two safes housed in the Chief's administrative suite. VELAZQUEZ stated that currency from SIS seizures was in one of the safes and then VELAZQUEZ gave Fuente the combination to access the safe. A few days later, Fuente along with HPD Commander Alexi Castaneda, Commander Fernando Villa, and HPD legal advisor Barbara Govea attempted to access the safe with the code provided by VELAZQUEZ. When they were unable to open the safe, Villa contacted VELAZQUEZ by telephone who subsequently advised how to get the safe open. At this time VELAZQUEZ also advised that there was a ledger that accounted for all of the money in the safe. Once access was eventually gained into the safe, three (3) sealed evidence bags containing seized currency were found in the safe. No ledger was ever found. Fuente advised the sealed bags of currency were then taken to the property unit to count it and "properly" impound it. Once the count was complete, a significant amount of money was found to be missing – Fuente estimated it at thousands of dollars, however he did not recall the exact amount. He advised that it was documented on property receipts and the count was recorded on HPD body worn camera.

Body Worn Camera (BWC) and property receipts regarding this incident were subsequently provided by HPD to Your Affiant. A review of this documentation revealed currency from the following cases were discovered in the safe on November 18, 2021:

HPD case #2021-025049: This case involved the attempted purchase of two (2) kilograms of cocaine by a suspect from HPD undercover officers on August 24, 2021. A review of HPD property receipts completed on the day of the seizure by Det. Marcelino Acosta revealed \$56,055.00 was seized on that day. On November 18, 2021, the amount of currency found in the sealed evidence bag was \$38,900.00, a discrepancy of -\$17,155.00.

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HPD case #2021-025213: This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by a suspect from undercover HPD officers on August 25, 2021. A review of HPD property receipts completed on the day of the seizure by Det. Daniel Gato revealed \$25,043.00 was seized on that day. On November 18, 2021, the amount of currency found in the sealed evidence bag was \$18,750.00, a discrepancy of -\$6,293.00.

HPD case #2021-030487: This case involved the attempted purchase of thirteen (13) kilograms of cocaine by a suspect from HPD undercover officers on October 8, 2021. A review of HPD property receipts completed on the day of the seizure by Det. Josseph Loor revealed \$298,405.00 was seized on that day. On November 18, 2021, the amount of currency found in the sealed evidence bag was \$205,082.00, a discrepancy of -\$93,323.00. A second property receipt was also provided by HPD related to this case which documented an additional \$40,000.00 that was impounded in this case. This resulted in a total discrepancy of -\$53,323.00.

In summary, a total of \$76,771.00 in currency seized by HPD between August 24, 2021, and October 8, 2021, was discovered to be missing from the original evidence packages that were stored in a safe within the Chief's administrative suite.

Further analysis of HPD forfeiture records revealed currency from fourteen (14) other forfeiture cases was also missing. In summary, \$526,712.00 in US currency was ordered by the court to be deposited to the LETF at the conclusion of fourteen (14) different forfeiture cases in 2021. Additionally, another \$235,562.00 was ordered by the court to be retained by HPD for investigative costs. Though these court orders were conveyed to VELAZQUEZ through legal memorandums, the City of Hialeah Finance Department was unable to locate any records that the LETF deposits were made. Subsequent analysis of HPD LETF account bank records was also unable to locate those deposits. This information will be explained further in this affidavit.

### **The Investigation – Cash Transaction Analysis**

As part of this investigation, analysis of bank records for seventeen (17) current & former HPD employees have been conducted, including SIS Sergeants, Commander/Major Fernando Villa, Major Hubert Ruiz and VELAZQUEZ. This analysis showed several HPD employees conducted cash deposits into accounts owned and/or controlled by them during the period of review. The cash deposits observed in sixteen (16) of the seventeen (17) accounts ranged from 0% to 7.3% of all deposit activity for accounts controlled by that specific individual. No cash deposit activity indicative of “Structuring to Avoid a Reporting Requirement”, in this case a Cash Transaction Report (CTR), was observed in any of these sixteen (16) accounts.

However, analysis of accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ revealed that over 46% of all deposits made into his accounts were cash deposits. Specifically, between 2015 and 2021, over \$2,000,000.00 in cash was deposited into personal and business accounts owned and/or controlled by VELAZQUEZ.

In fact, between calendar years 2015 and 2021 nine hundred twenty-two (922) cash deposits totaling approximately \$2,180,934.00 were made into bank accounts owned and controlled by VELAZQUEZ while he was employed as the Chief of Police for the Hialeah Police Department. Out of the 922 deposits, not a single deposit over \$10,000.00 was made into any of the VELAZQUEZ accounts reviewed. There are numerous incidences where cash deposits of over \$10,000.00 were split between different accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ within days of each other. In addition, there are numerous occurrences where deposits of over \$10,000.00 were split between multiple VELAZQUEZ controlled accounts on the same day. This is a clear indication that the deposits were conducted in a manner such as to avoid a reporting requirement, specifically the filing of a Cash Transaction Report (CTR). Additionally, all cash deposit activity stopped once VELAZQUEZ was relieved of duty as Chief of Police. For the purposes of establishing probable cause for the crime of “Structuring Transactions to Evade Reporting or Registration Requirements”, this affidavit will concentrate on financial transactions conducted in 2021 and within the statute of limitations for this specific charge.

**Former Hialeah Police Chief SERGIO VELAZQUEZ**



As previously documented in this affidavit, VELAZQUEZ served as Chief of Police for the City of Hialeah from 2012 through November 8, 2021. On November 8, 2021, newly elected Mayor Esteban Bovo notified VELAZQUEZ that he would be replaced as Chief and placed VELAZQUEZ on leave. At the time of his removal Velazquez was making approximately \$210,000.00 in salary from the City of Hialeah as Chief. On the above date, Bovo announced Deputy Police Chief George Fuente would serve as Interim Chief of Police until a permanent replacement was found. Fuente was ultimately confirmed as the permanent Chief in March 2022.

On April 28, 2015, while serving as Chief, VELAZQUEZ incorporated "SV Electric Corp" in the state of Florida. SV Electric Corp was assigned EIN #47-3975545 and remains an active corporation as of this date. According to records obtained from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), SV Electric has an active Florida Electrical Contractor's license. The licensee was identified as Sergio VELAZQUEZ and the annual license number is #EC13010809 and the listed address is [REDACTED]

A subpoena was issued to the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR) pertaining to VELAZQUEZ and SV Electric Corp requesting applications, tax invoices, remittances, reports, payments and payment information, and correspondence from 2012 through present. The FDOR subpoena response revealed that the only reported wages earned by VELAZQUEZ during the periods listed above were from the Hialeah Police Department. Additionally, the FDOR advised that they were unable to locate any records that SV Electric Corp had ever registered to file taxes with the State of Florida.

Subpoenas were subsequently issued to all sixty-seven (67) counties in the state of Florida requesting: Any and all records pertaining to VELAZQUEZ and SV Electric Corp; including but not limited to permit applications, permits, invoices, affidavits, remittances, reports, payments and payment information, fee sheets, exemptions, inspections and correspondence for the time period of January 1, 2012 through present. A review of responses from all sixty-seven (67) subpoenas issued revealed that not a single county in Florida had any record of VELAZQUEZ or SV Electric

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Corp ever applying for or conducting permitted work in their area of responsibility.

Two (2) SV Electric Corp business bank accounts were identified during this investigation and transactions between April 2016 and April 2022 were analyzed. Analysis of these accounts revealed disparity between cash deposits and apparent business-related income. During the above timeframe, deposits into the two SV Electric Corp accounts totaled approximately \$309,000.00. Of that amount deposited, approximately \$257,000.00 (or 83%) were cash deposits. Similar disparity with account expenditures also appeared with an overwhelming majority of the debit activity - \$269, 877.00 (or 87%) - being spent to pay credit card debt.

For 2021 specifically, SV Electric business accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ received \$102,350.00 (Citibank) and \$80,880.00 (JP Morgan Chase), for a total of \$183,230.00 in deposits. \$139,658.00 or 76% of these deposits were made in cash.

While some expenditures made through SV Electric business credit card accounts could be construed as business related expenses, there are also numerous instances of questionable purchases as well. For 2021, these purchases included, \$47,745.00 to Aurum Holdings Limited (a luxury watch retailer), \$11,604.00 to Cartier, \$6,751.70 at Louis Vuitton, \$5,068.50 at Versace, \$3,888.85 at Saks Fifth Avenue, \$1,710.00 to Watches of Switzerland, and \$883.82 at Sephora. These examples alone amount to \$77,649.00 (42%) in apparent non business-related expenditures.

**Accounts owned and controlled by SERGIO VELAZQUEZ**

Your Affiant conducted analysis of financial records for transactions which occurred between the first and last cash deposits in calendar year 2021 – specifically, January 12, 2021, through October 29, 2021. VELAZQUEZ operated the following bank accounts during the above period of review:

On July 23, 2015, VELAZQUEZ opened Wells Fargo Bank account #xxxxx [REDACTED], an account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This account was operated by VELAZQUEZ until June 30, 2023, at which time the account was closed.

On July 23, 2015, VELAZQUEZ opened Wells Fargo Bank account #xxxxx [REDACTED], an account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This account was operated by VELAZQUEZ until June 30, 2023, at which time the account was closed.

On September 3, 2019, VELAZQUEZ opened SunTrust Bank account #xxxxxxxx [REDACTED], an account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This account was operated by VELAZQUEZ through April 11, 2022, the date of the last items obtained via subpoena.

On September 4, 2019, VELAZQUEZ opened JP Morgan Chase Bank account #xxxxx [REDACTED] an account in the name of SV Electric Corp. This account was operated by VELAZQUEZ until April 29, 2022, at which time the account was closed.

On September 30, 2019, VELAZQUEZ opened Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED] in the name of SV Electric Corp. This account was operated by VELAZQUEZ until July 15, 2022, at which time the account was closed.

Pursuant to bank records obtained via subpoena from the above institutions, VELAZQUEZ owned and controlled these accounts and did not have any co-signors during the period of review. This was determined through analysis of bank account opening documents, including financial institution mandated Know Your Customer (KYC) data. Additionally, payroll and other deposits identifying VELAZQUEZ as the payee and expenditures to other VELAZQUEZ-controlled accounts, including other bank accounts and credit cards, were used to verify VELAZQUEZ owned and controlled these accounts. Further review of account records revealed that VELAZQUEZ was issued ATM card(s) for these accounts, and those ATM cards were utilized to make deposits and withdrawals, in addition to in-person banking and mobile banking, during the period reviewed. A review of supplied bank correspondence did not indicate any reports of fraud, account takeover, loss of ATM card(s), or other suspicious activity by VELAZQUEZ involving any of the above listed accounts.

In addition to the above previously described bank accounts, VELAZQUEZ also controlled and operated the following credit card accounts during the period of review:

1. American Express "Rewards Gold" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from March 2014 through May 2023.
2. American Express "Plum" card # [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from February 2017 through May 2023. Yusleiby Hernandez was identified as a secondary card holder on this account.
3. American Express "Mercedes Benz" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from November 2017 through April 2023.
4. American Express "Hilton Honors" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from February 2018 through April 2023.
5. American Express "Business Gold" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from May 2021 through April 2023.
6. Barclay Visa card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from October 2012 through July 2021.
7. Barclay "American Airlines" card # [REDACTED] and # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from June 2018 through February 2022.
8. Discover card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from June 2015 through March 2022.
9. Wells Fargo "Mayors" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from November 2020 through February 2022.
10. JP Morgan Chase "Freedom" card # [REDACTED] in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from August 2015 through April 2022.
11. JP Morgan Chase "Disney Rewards" card # [REDACTED] in the name of Sergio VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from February 18, 2020, through May 9, 2022.
12. JP Morgan Chase "Ritz Carlton" card # [REDACTED] in the name of Sergio VELAZQUEZ. This credit card account was utilized by VELAZQUEZ from June 29, 2016, through May 18, 2022.

**Placement, Layering and Integration**

Through training and experience, Your Affiant has learned various methods of money laundering and its cycles. The first stage in the cycle of money laundering is commonly known as the “placement” phase. During the placement phase, cash is introduced to the financial system in a manner that does not bring suspicion from the financial institution. Financial institutions are required to monitor and report suspicious financial transactions, such as large currency deposits. In this case, the placement phase is accomplished by breaking down large sums of currency into smaller deposits in order to avoid suspicion and subsequent reporting of cash transactions from the financial institution to the government. Multiple bank accounts are also often utilized to accomplish the placement phase.

The second phase of the money laundering cycle is known as the “layering” phase. During the layering phase, money is moved between financial institutions as a way of distancing the initial placement of currency deposits from its final destination. In this case, the layering phase is accomplished by conducting online and electronic transfers from banking institutions to credit card companies and other creditors.

The final phase of money laundering is referred to as the “integration” phase. The integration stage occurs when the money is returned to the owner from what seem to be legitimate sources. Having been placed initially as cash and layered through a number of financial transactions, the proceeds are now fully integrated into the financial system and can be used for any purpose. In this case, the integration phase is conducted through the use of credit cards and other loans. Expenditures are made through these credit accounts and the currency deposited in the placement phase is ultimately used to pay the debt through electronic transfers and online payments.

During the course of this investigation, Your Affiant has participated in the analysis of HPD “petty cash” checks, HPD SIS currency seizures (and subsequent civil forfeitures), as well as bank records from accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. This analysis has revealed that large amounts of currency previously in the custody of HPD is unaccounted for.

Between December 21, 2020, and November 4, 2021, VELAZQUEZ submitted nine (9) memorandums requesting checks totaling \$352,000.00 “to fund ongoing, complex, and protracted

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confidential narcotics investigations”. These checks were issued by the City of Hialeah Finance Department pursuant to these memorandums and cashed for use by HPD SIS. Analysis identified approximately \$307,500.00 in petty cash which there is no documentation to verify its expenditure and remains unaccounted for.

Furthermore, the whereabouts of proceeds from fourteen (14) civil forfeitures totaling \$762,274.00 in US currency seized by HPD is unknown. \$526,712.00 of this amount was court ordered to be deposited to the LETF and was not. This is in addition to \$235,562.00 that the court ordered HPD retain as costs of their investigations. Another \$76,771.00 in currency seized by HPD between August 24, 2021, and October 8, 2021, was discovered to be missing from the original evidence packages stored in a safe within the VELAZQUEZ’ administrative suite. All told, over \$1,100,00.00 in currency from calendar year 2021 is missing from HPD.

During this same time frame, one hundred fifty-three (153) separate cash deposits totaling \$293,060.00 were credited to VELAZQUEZ’ owned accounts. Within this deposit activity, numerous deposits indicative of “Structuring transactions to evade reporting or registration requirements” were identified into bank accounts owned and controlled by VELAZQUEZ. Total cash deposit activity for calendar year 2021 can be viewed in Appendix “A” of this affidavit.

### **Synopsis of Financial Analysis**

The following is a month-by-month synopsis of financial activity observed for calendar year 2021 involving HPD petty cash and SIS documented expenditures, missing HPD civil forfeitures, structurally deposited currency, and integration of deposited currency into the financial system:

#### **December 2020 - January 2021**

On December 21, 2020, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on December 22, 2020, City of Hialeah General Fund check #371935 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period of December 22, 2020,



through February 11, 2021, revealed \$3,864.86 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$36,135.14 unaccounted for.

In January 2021, thirty-three (33) cash deposits totaling \$30,060.00 were made into four (4) different accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. These deposits were all conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. The total deposit activity was conducted over four separate days with none of the aggregate deposits totaling \$10,000.00. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$27,870.42 through the payment of credit card accounts and other purchases:

On January 12, 2021, ten (10) cash deposits totaling \$9,100.00 were made into Citibank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED]. The following cash deposit transactions were observed on this date:

CITIXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/12/21	\$200.00
CITIXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/12/21	\$940.00
CITIXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/12/21	\$960.00
CITIXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/12/21	\$1,000.00

On January 13, 2021, an online payment of \$8,370.42 was posted from the above Citibank account to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On January 13, 2021, fifteen (15) cash ATM deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into JP Morgan Chase Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED]. The following cash deposit transactions were observed on this date:

JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00

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JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/13/21	\$600.00

On January 19, 2021, an online payment of \$8,500.00 was posted from JP Morgan Chase Bank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] to American Express for the Rewards Gold card account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On January 14, 2021, four (4) cash deposits totaling \$2,160.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED]. The following cash deposit transactions were observed on this date:

WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/14/21	\$300.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/14/21	\$970.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/14/21	\$600.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/14/21	\$290.00

On January 26, 2021, one (1) cash deposit in the amount of \$800.00 was made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED] and three (3) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED]. In total, the following four (4) cash deposits totaling \$9,800.00 were observed on this date:

WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/26/21	\$800.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/26/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/26/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX	[REDACTED]	01/26/21	\$3,000.00

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On January 26, 2021, an online payment of \$11,000.00 was made from the above Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED] to American Express for the Rewards Gold card account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

### **February 2021**

On February 1, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a “petty cash” check via memorandum “to fund ongoing, complex, and protracted confidential narcotics investigations”. On February 11, 2020, City of Hialeah General Fund check #372852 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures between February 12, 2021, and March 23, 2021, revealed approximately \$2,110.00 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$37,890.00 unaccounted for. When added from the previous month’s balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of March 23, 2021, is estimated at \$74,061.59.

On January 28, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-24217 from Judge David C. Miller under court case #2020-021316-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of two (2) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on September 18, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$59,486.00 in currency was seized on that day. On February 3, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$41,917.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$17,569.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On February 12, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-28850 from Judge Carlos Lopez under court case #2020-025359-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on November 5, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$38,100.00 in currency was seized on that day. On February 16, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of

Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$25,854.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$15,547.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On February 19, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$9,600.00 were made into two (2) different accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. These deposits were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. The total deposit activity was conducted on one day, into two (2) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of the funds through the payment of a roofing contract deposit:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	02/19/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	02/19/21	\$3,000.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	02/19/21	\$3,600.00

On February 18, 2021, check #364 from Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED] was issued to Z Roofing & Waterproofing in the amount of \$5,780.00 with “Roofing contract” written in the memo section. This check cleared the Wells Fargo account on February 26, 2021.

On February 25, 2021, HPD obtained a Final Order of Forfeiture for case #2020-018248 from Judge Pedro Echarte Jr., under court case #2020-016063-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on July 15, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$33,000.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the same date, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$22,110.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$10,890.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

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## March 2021

On March 11, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on March 24, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #373811 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures between March 24, 2021, and April 28, 2021, revealed approximately \$2,590.84 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$37,409.16 unaccounted for. When added from the previous month's estimated balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of April 28, 2021, is \$111,470.75.

On March 17, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-22705 from Judge Migna Sanchez-Llorens under court case #2020-019812-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on September 1, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$29,000.00 in currency was seized on that day. On March 18, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *"Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$19,132.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$9,868.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed."* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On March 29, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-24048 from Judge Valerie Manno Schurr under court case #2020-021025-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of five (5) kilograms of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on September 16, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$160,000.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the same date, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *"Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$113,677.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$49,809.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed."* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this

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deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In March 2021, twelve (12) cash deposits totaling \$28,680.00 were made into three (3) different accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. Seven (7) of these deposits were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. These seven (7) deposits were conducted over three days, into two (2) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$24,199.12 through the payment of credit card accounts and other purchases.

On March 23, 2021, two (2) cash deposits totaling \$6,900.00 were made into Citibank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED]. The following cash deposit transactions were observed on this date:

CITXXXXXX [REDACTED]	03/23/21	\$2,400.00
CITXXXXXX [REDACTED]	03/23/21	\$4,500.00

On March 25, 2021, an online payment of \$7,700.00 was posted from the above Citibank account to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On March 26, 2021, two (2) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into the same Citibank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED].

CITXXXXXX [REDACTED]	03/26/21	\$4,000.00
CITXXXXXX [REDACTED]	03/26/21	\$5,000.00

On March 29, 2021, an online payment of \$9,000.00 was posted from the above Citibank account to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On March 31, 2021, three (3) more cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED].

WF XXXXXX		03/31/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX		03/31/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX		03/31/21	\$3,000.00

On April 1, 2021, an online payment of \$7,499.12 was posted from the above Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXXX to American Express for the Rewards Gold card account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

**April 2021**

On April 21, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on April 29, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #374676 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period covering April 29, 2021, through June 16, 2021, revealed approximately \$3,980.23 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$36,019.77 unaccounted for. When combined the previous balance as of April 28, 2021, the total estimated petty cash which is unaccounted for as of June 16, 2021, is \$147,490.52.

On April 15, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-25500 from Judge Alan Fine under court case #2020-022402-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on October 2, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$37,020.00 in currency was seized on that day. On April 16, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$25,917.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$11,103.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In April 2021, eleven (11) cash deposits totaling \$17,450.00 were made into one (1) account controlled by VELAZQUEZ. Seven (7) of these deposits were conducted in a manner consistent

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with structuring activity. All of the deposits were conducted over two days, into a single account, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$18,000.00 through the payment of credit card accounts and other purchases.

On April 21, 2021, five (5) cash deposits totaling \$8,450.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED].

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/21/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/21/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/21/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/21/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/21/21	\$2,450.00

On the same date, an online payment of \$9,000.00 was made from the above Wells Fargo Bank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] to the Wells Fargo "Mayors" credit card account in the name of VELAZQUEZ.

On April 26, 2021, six (6) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED].

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	04/26/21	\$1,500.00

On the same date, an online payment of \$9,000.00 was made from the above Wells Fargo Bank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] to the Wells Fargo "Mayors" credit card account in the name of VELAZQUEZ.

It should be noted that on April 20, 2021, VELAZQUEZ purchased two (2) Rolex watches from Mayors Jewelers in Aventura, Florida. According to records obtained from Mayors, VELAZQUEZ purchased one watch for \$6,304.00 and paid in cash. The second watch, identified

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as a Rolex Oyster, cost VELAZQUEZ \$68,632.00. VELAZQUEZ placed \$30,000.00 onto the above listed Wells Fargo "Mayors" credit card account and the remaining \$38,632.00 was charged to an unidentified American Express card ending in # [REDACTED]. The \$18,000.00 in structurally deposited cash from deposit activity on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 26th, 2021 was then used to pay down the debt on the "Mayors" Credit card. VELAZQUEZ then made ten (10) subsequent payments totaling \$12,000.00 between June and December 2021 in order to pay off the watch.

**May 2021**

In May 2021, no petty cash check was requested by VELAZQUEZ and expenditures up to June 16, 2021 have already been included in the balance of unaccounted for petty cash in the amount of \$147,490.52.

In May 2021, fifteen (15) cash deposits totaling \$41,550.00 were made into three (3) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. All of these deposits were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. All of the deposits were conducted over two days, into three different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$44,544.64 through the payment of credit card accounts and other purchases.

On May 3, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,800.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxxx [REDACTED]. On the same date, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$9,600.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED]. In total, the following six (6) cash deposit transactions totaling \$18,400.00 were observed on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$2,900.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$2,900.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$3,000.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$600.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$4,000.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/03/21	\$5,000.00

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On May 4, 2021, an online payment in the amount of \$9,000.00 was posted from the above Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for the “Plum” card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. On May 5, 2021, four (4) payments were posted from the above Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED] (i/n/o SERGIO VELAZQUEZ) to Barclaycard (2 payments) and Chase (2 payment) credit card accounts totaling \$7,530.77. Specifically, a payment of \$897.70 was posted to a Barclaycard Visa i/n/o SERGIO VELAZQUEZ and a payment of \$1,670.93 was posted to a Barclaycard American Airlines (AA) card i/n/o SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. On the same date, a payment of \$1,162.14 was posted to a Chase Ritz Carlton credit card i/n/o SERGIO VELAZQUEZ and a payment of \$3,800.00 was posted to an unidentified Chase account.

On May 27, 2021, four (4) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED]. On the same date, two (2) cash deposits totaling \$8,000.00 were made into Suntrust Bank account #xxxxxxxxx [REDACTED] and three (3) cash deposits totaling \$6,150.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED]. In total, the following nine (9) cash deposit transactions totaling \$23,150.00 were conducted on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$2,900.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$100.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$4,000.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$4,000.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$1,650.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$2,000.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	05/27/21	\$2,500.00

On May 28, 2021, a payment was posted from the above Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED] to VELAZQUEZ’ Chase Disney Rewards Visa account in the amount of \$9,000.00. On May 28, 2021, a payment in the amount of \$10,500.00 was also posted from Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for the “Plum” card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. On June 1, 2021, two (2) payments totaling \$8,513.87 were posted from the above Suntrust Bank account #xxxxxxxxx [REDACTED]. One (1) payment was to Discover for \$2,513.87 and one (1) payment was to American Express (card [REDACTED]) for \$6,000.00.

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## June 2021

On June 2, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on June 17, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #375847 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period covering June 17, 2021, through July 28, 2021, revealed approximately \$9,473.00 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$30,527.00 unaccounted for. When added from the previous month's estimated balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of July 28, 2021, is \$178,017.52.

On June 10, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-018156 from Judge Maria de Jesus Santovenia under court case #2020-016062-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on July 14, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$27,970.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the same date, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *"Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$18,746.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$9,224.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed."* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On June 19, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-30389 from Judge Samantha Ruiz Cohen under court case #2020-026139-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on November 21, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$37,210.00 in currency was seized on that day. On June 21, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *"Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$20,230.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$16,980.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed."* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this

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deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In June 2021, fourteen (14) cash deposits totaling \$34,400.00 were made into three (3) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. Ten (10) of these deposits totaling \$26,300.00 were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. Six (6) deposits totaling \$15,400.00 were conducted on a single day, into two (2) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. An additional four (4) deposits totaling \$10,900.00 were conducted on two days, into two (2) different accounts, also under the reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$26,076.07 through the payment of credit card accounts and other purchases.

On June 7, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,900.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxxx [REDACTED] (i/n/o SERGIO VELAZQUEZ). On the same date, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$6,500.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED]. In total, the following six (6) cash deposit transactions totaling \$15,400.00 were conducted on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$2,900.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$1,550.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$2,450.00
CITIXXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/07/21	\$2,500.00

On the same day, three online payments were made to credit card accounts held by VELAZQUEZ totaling \$16,000.00. These payments included an online payment in the amount of \$6,000.00 from Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for the Rewards Gold card in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ; an online payment in the amount of \$7,000.00 from the above Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for the "Plum" card in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ; and an online payment in the amount of \$3,000.00 from Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxxx [REDACTED] to Wells Fargo for the Mayors Visa card in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

Between June 9 and June 16, 2021, the following four (4) cash deposits totaling \$10,900.00 were made into two (2) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ:

Suntrust XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/09/21	\$3,400.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/16/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/16/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	06/16/21	\$1,500.00

Between June 9 and June 15, 2021, various payments were made from the above listed Suntrust account totaling \$3,498.30. Included in this amount was a payment made on June 11, 2021, in the amount of \$1,268.42 to a Chase “Disney Rewards” credit card account in the name of VELAZQUEZ.

On June 17, 2021, a payment in the amount of \$4,077.77 was made to the VELAZQUEZ’ Chase “Disney Rewards” credit card and a payment in the amount of \$574.83 was made to VELAZQUEZ Chase “Ritz Carlton” credit card account from the above Wells Fargo account. On June 25, 2021, additional payments totaling \$2,500.00 were made to VELAZQUEZ’ American Express “Rewards Gold” (\$1,400.00) and Wells Fargo “Mayors” card (\$1,100.00).

### **July 2021**

On July 21, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on July 29, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #377061 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period covering July 29, 2021, through September 8, 2021, revealed approximately \$14,330.00 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$25,670.00 unaccounted for. When combined with the previous balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of September 8, 2021, is \$203,687.52.

On July 20, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-20613 from Judge Carlos Guzman under court case #2020-017930-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of four (4) kilograms of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on August 10, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$102,967.00 in currency was seized on that day. On July 21, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored

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a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$71,789.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$31,178.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On July 21, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-22853 from Judge Valerie Manno Schurr under court case #2020-019998-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on September 3, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$41,170.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the same date, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$29,450.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$11,720.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In July 2021, thirty-six (36) cash deposits totaling \$50,720.00 were made into four (4) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. At least twenty-five (25) of these deposits totaling approximately \$40,840.00 were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. All of these twenty-five (25) deposits were conducted on four (4) days, into two (2) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of funds totaling \$37,163.00 through the payment of credit card accounts:

On July 2, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$5,240.00 were made into Suntrust Bank account #xxxxxxxxx [REDACTED]. On the same day, ten (10) deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED]. In summary, the following thirteen (13) cash deposit transactions totaling \$14,240.00 were conducted on this date:

SuntrustXXXXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,440.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,800.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$2,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$120.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$880.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/02/21	\$1,000.00

On July 6, 2021, an online payment in the amount of \$9,600.00 was made from Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED] American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On July 6, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,000.00 were made into JP Morgan Chase Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED]

JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/06/21	\$3,000.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/06/21	\$2,900.00
JPMCXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/06/21	\$2,100.00

On the same date, an online payment in the amount of \$9,500.00 was made from the above JP Morgan Chase Bank account # XXXXXX [REDACTED] to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On July 7, 2021, two (2) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Citibank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED].

CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/07/21	\$4,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	[REDACTED]	07/07/21	\$5,000.00

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On the same date, an online payment in the amount of \$7,063.00 was made from the above Citibank account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. A second payment in the amount of \$2,000.00 was also made from the same account to American Express for the Rewards Gold card account in the name of SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On July 8, 2021, six (6) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # XXXXX [REDACTED] and one (1) cash deposit totaling \$600.00 was made into Wells Fargo account #XXXXX [REDACTED]

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$600.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	07/08/21	\$1,500.00

On the same date, an online payment in the amount of \$9,000.00 was made from the above Wells Fargo account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] to American Express for the "Plum" card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

### August 2021

On August 24, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on September 9, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #378016 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period covering September 9, 2021, through October 5, 2021, revealed approximately \$2,350.00 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$37,650.00 unaccounted for. When combined with the previous balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of October 5, 2021, is \$241,337.52.

On August 16, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-27944 from Judge Carlos Guzman under court case #2020-024130-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover

officers on October 27, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$36,000.00 in currency was seized on that day. The currency in this case was awarded to HPD by the court on August 16, 2021. On August 17, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$28,961.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$7,039.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In August 2021, fifteen (15) cash deposits totaling \$34,700.00 were made into three (3) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. These fifteen (15) deposits were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. The structured deposits were conducted on five (5) days, into three (3) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of the funds through the payment of credit card accounts:

On August 2, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,400.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED]. The following deposits were made on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	08/02/21	\$2,500.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	08/02/21	\$2,900.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	08/02/21	\$3,000.00

On the same date, an online payment in the amount of \$6,000.00 was made from the above Wells Fargo account #XXXXXX [REDACTED] was made to VELAZQUEZ' Chase “Ritz Carlton” credit card account and a payment of \$2,187.86 was made to the American Express “Rewards Gold” card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On August 9, 2021, one (1) cash deposit totaling \$1,000.00 was made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED] and two (2) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx [REDACTED]. In total, the following three (3) cash deposit transactions totaling \$10,000.00 were conducted on this date:

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WF XXXXXX	████████	08/09/21	\$1,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	████████	08/09/21	\$4,000.00
CITIXXXXXX	████████	08/09/21	\$5,000.00

On the same date, an online payment in the amount of \$2,000.00 was made from the above Citibank account #XXXXXX ██████ was made to the American Express “Rewards Gold” card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ and a payment of \$6,417.96 was made to American Express for the “Plum” card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On August 20, 2021, the following three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,300.00 were made into Citibank account #xxxxxx ██████

CITIXXXXXX	████████	08/20/21	\$700.00
CITIXXXXXX	████████	08/20/21	\$2,900.00
CITIXXXXXX	████████	08/20/21	\$4,700.00

On August 23, 2021, a payment of \$8,600.00 was made to American Express for the “Plum” card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

On August 25 and August 31, 2021, the following six (6) cash deposits totaling \$8,000.00 were made into JP Morgan Chase Bank account # xxxxxx ██████

JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/25/21	\$2,000.00
JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/25/21	\$1,400.00
JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/25/21	\$600.00
JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/31/21	\$2,000.00
JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/31/21	\$1,160.00
JPMCXXXXX	████████	08/31/21	\$840.00

On August 31, 2021, a payment of \$9,000.00 was made to American Express for the “Plum” card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

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## September 2021

On September 22, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a “petty cash” check via memorandum and on October 6, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #378996 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$32,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures for the period covering October 6, 2021, through November 3, 2021, revealed approximately \$4,287.00 was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$27,713.00 unaccounted for. When combined with the previous month’s balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for as of November 3, 2021, is estimated at \$269,050.52.

On September 9, 2021, HPD a Final Judgement for case #2021-018812 from Judge Pedro Echarte under court case #2021-017162-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one (1) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on June 28, 2021. A review of HPD documents revealed \$24,000.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the same date, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$17,560.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$6,440.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

On September 16, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2020-26619 from Judge Maria de Jesus Santovenia under court case #2020-023241-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of four (4) kilograms of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on October 13, 2020. A review of HPD documents revealed \$115,150.00 in currency was seized on that day. On September 17, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$81,750.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$33,400.00 in costs of the complex and protracted investigation is reimbursed.”* After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to

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locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In September 2021, eight (8) cash deposits totaling \$28,000.00 were made into three (3) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. Six (6) of these deposits totaling \$20,500.00 were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. The six (6) structured deposits were conducted on the same day, into three (3) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of the fund through the payment of credit card accounts:

On September 10, 2021, one (1) cash deposit totaling \$9,100.00 was made into JP Morgan Chase Bank account # xxxxx[REDACTED]. An additional four (4) cash deposits totaling \$9,500.00 were made into Wells Fargo account #XXXXXX[REDACTED] and one (1) cash deposit totaling \$1,900.00 was made into Suntrust Bank account #xxxxxxxxx[REDACTED] and. In total, the following six (6) cash deposit transactions totaling \$20,500.00 were conducted on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$1,400.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$2,100.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$3,000.00
SuntrustXXXXXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$1,900.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/10/21	\$9,100.00

On the same date, a payment in the amount of \$8,959.05 was made from JP Morgan Chase Bank account # xxxxx[REDACTED] to American Express for the "Plum" card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ. A payment in the amount of \$9,488.00 was also posted on September 10, 2021, to the American Express Rewards Gold card in the name of VELAZQUEZ, however the source of this payment has not been identified at this time.

Between September 10 and September 13, 2021, additional payments totaling \$9,468.00 were made from Wells Fargo account #XXXXXX[REDACTED] to American Express for the Business Gold card (\$500.00), Discover Card (\$3,998.00), Barclay Card (\$2,306.65), and Mercedes Benz to pay off the lease of a 2021 vehicle (\$2,663.22).

On September 13, 2021, two payments were made from Suntrust Bank account #xxxxxxxxx [REDACTED] totaling \$2,508.91 to Chase credit card accounts held by VELAZQUEZ. One payment was made to the Ritz Carlton card (\$1,801.96) and one payment was made to the Marriott Bonvoy card (\$706.95).

On September 17, 2021, the following two (2) cash deposits totaling \$7,500.00 were made to JP Morgan Chase Bank account # xxxxxx [REDACTED]:

JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/17/21	\$6,600.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	09/17/21	\$900.00

On September 27, 2021, online payments totaling \$7,739.67 were made from the above account to American Express for credit card accounts held by VELAZQUEZ. A payment in the amount of \$2,500.00 was made to the American Express “Rewards Gold” card account in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ and a payment of \$5,239.67 was made to American Express for the “Plum” card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

**October 2021**

In October 2021, no petty cash check was cashed and expenditures up to November 3, 2021, have already been included in the balance of unaccounted for petty cash in the amount of \$269,050.52 as of November 3, 2021.

On October 26, 2021, HPD obtained an Order of Default and Final Judgement of Forfeiture for case #2021-021764 from Judge Charles Johnson under court case #2021-018795-CA-01. This case involved the attempted purchase of one-half (1/2) kilogram of cocaine by suspects from HPD undercover officers on July 26, 2021. A review of HPD documents revealed \$14,414.00 in currency was seized on that day. On the October 27, 2021, HPD Legal Advisor Barbara Govea authored a City of Hialeah memorandum instructing VELAZQUEZ *“Please have the seizing officer release the currency ASAP. Once that is done, \$9,619.00 shall be deposited into the Law Enforcement Trust Fund – State account after \$4,795.00 in costs of the complex and protracted*

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investigation is reimbursed.” After a diligent search, the COH finance department was unable to locate this deposit in the LETF-State Ledger and the finance department has no record of this cash ever being deposited into the HPD LETF.

In October 2021, six (6) cash deposits totaling \$17,900.00 were made into two (2) accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ. All of these deposits were conducted in a manner consistent with structuring activity. The six (6) structured deposits were conducted on the same day, into two (2) different accounts, and under the \$10,000.00 reporting threshold. The following is a summary of structured cash deposit transactions and subsequent integration of the fund through the payment of credit card accounts:

On October 29, 2021, three (3) cash deposits totaling \$9,000.00 were made into Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED] and three (3) cash deposits totaling \$8,900.00 were deposited into JP Morgan Chase account # xxxxx [REDACTED]. In total, the following six (6) cash deposit transactions totaling \$17,900.00 were conducted on this date:

WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$3,000.00
WF XXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$3,000.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$3,000.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$3,000.00
JPMCXXXXX [REDACTED]	10/29/21	\$2,900.00

On November 7, 2021, three online payments were made to credit card accounts held by VELAZQUEZ totaling \$12,171.47. These payments included an online payment in the amount of \$7,171.47 from JP Morgan Chase account # xxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for the “Plum” card in the name of SV Electric/SERGIO VELAZQUEZ; an online payment in the amount of \$1,000.00 from JP Morgan Chase account # xxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for a “Business Gold” card in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ; and an online payment in the amount of \$4,000.00 from Wells Fargo Bank account # xxxxx [REDACTED] to American Express for Rewards Gold card in the name of SV Electric / SERGIO VELAZQUEZ.

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## November 2021

On October 18, 2021, VELAZQUEZ requested a check via memorandum and on November 4, 2021, City of Hialeah General Fund check #379748 was cashed at SunTrust Bank in the amount of \$40,000.00. A review of documented SIS expenditures between November 4 and November 30, 2021, revealed only approximately \$1,498.73. was accounted for through HPD SIS expense vouchers, leaving \$38,501.27 unaccounted for. When combined with the previous month's balance, the total petty cash which is unaccounted for in 2021 amounts to \$307,551.79.

## Conclusion

Between June 7, 2021, and November 30, 2021, approximately \$278,105.00 in US currency seized by HPD that was court ordered to be deposited to the LETF was not. The whereabouts of \$120,776.00 ordered by the court to be retained by HPD for investigative costs is unknown. These funds were derived from nine (9) successful forfeiture actions undertaken by the HPD Legal Department. This currency was never submitted to the HPD property unit, instead held in a safe within VELAZQUEZ's administrative suite pending culmination of the forfeiture proceedings. Upon receiving court orders for disbursement of these funds, VELAZQUEZ was notified directly by HPD legal staff and clearly did not abide by the court orders.

An additional \$76,771.00 in currency seized by HPD between August 24, 2021, and October 8, 2021, was found to be missing from the original evidence packages stored in same safe described above.

Finally, the whereabouts of approximately \$160,000.00 in "petty cash" requested and received by VELAZQUEZ between June 2, 2021, and November 30, 2021, to fund SIS investigations is unknown. All told, over \$635,000.00 in currency is missing and/or unaccounted for from HPD in between the above dates.

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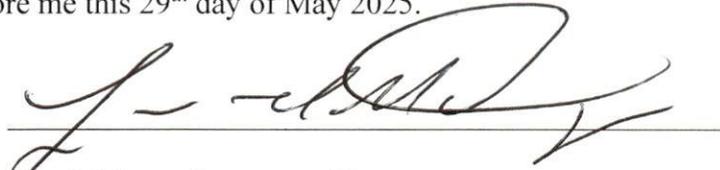
Between June 7, 2021, and October 29, 2021, your Affiant also identified over sixty (60) structured cash deposits totaling \$140,240.00 that were made into accounts controlled by VELAZQUEZ while he was employed as the Chief of Police for the Hialeah Police Department. As evidenced in the previously described transactions, no single deposit over \$10,000.00 was ever conducted into any of VELAZQUEZ's accounts, though the aggregate of the combined deposits was often near, equal to, or exceeded the \$10,000.00 CTR reporting requirement. This deposit method was conducted in a manner which disguised the actual amount of currency being deposited. This resulted in financial institutions failing to file CTRs pursuant to those transactions. Additionally, the currency deposits were almost always followed by payments to various credit card companies to offset credit balances previously incurred.

Finally, VELAZQUEZ had no other significant cash deposit activity after October 29, 2021, approximately 10 days prior to VELAZQUEZ being relieved of duty as Chief of Police of the Hialeah Police Department.



Special Agent Christopher Vastine #1003  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
AFFIANT

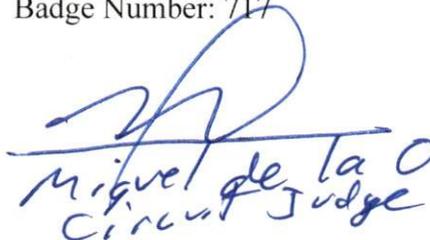
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.



Special Agent Lawrence Masterson

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Badge Number: 717



Miguel de la O  
Circuit Judge