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## **L.A. CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO FILES CRIMINAL CHARGES IN ILLEGAL BILLBOARDS CASE**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, the City's chief prosecutor, today announced his office has filed criminal charges against the owner of a construction company and three property owners for their role in erecting illegal billboard support structures.

Timothy McDaniel, owner of construction company McDaniel Inc., and three separate property owners; Austin Family Associates, LLC, Plumbers Union Local No. 78, and West Hollywood Properties, LLC, were each charged with one count of construction without permits, one count of placing or altering a sign without a permit and one count of erecting a sign without first securing all required permits and licenses. McDaniel was also charged with failing to obey an order of the Department of Building and Safety to discontinue construction.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine. Arraignment for each of the named defendants is scheduled for January 21, 2009 in Department 82 of the Central Arraignment Court.

The cases against McDaniel and the property owners began after an inspection by the Department of Building and Safety Code Enforcement Bureau on December 20, following a complaint of signs being installed without permits at three locations: 1314 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 1107 W. James Wood Blvd., and 1306 W. 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Work crews at each of the locations were observed utilizing cranes and trucks to construct large sign support structures.

The Department of Building and Safety subsequently issued orders to stop work after verifying that no permits had been issued for the three locations. Follow-up visits on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> revealed that the Stop-Work Orders had been, or were being, violated at two of the three locations.

A report was later referred to the City Attorney's Criminal and Special Litigation Branch for criminal prosecution.

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