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To: Media Outlets
From: Captain Paul Arteta, Public Information Officer
Subject: Arrest for Defrauding Workers' Compensation- **For Immediate Release**
Date: May 7, 2019

Sheriff Carl E. DuBois Announces the Arrest of a Town of Crawford Man for Defrauding the New York State Workers' Compensation Fund out of \$33,700.00

Town of Crawford, NY— On April 30, 2019, Investigators from the Orange County Sheriff's Office charged a 56-year-old, Town of Crawford man, Robert Marra, with the Penal Law Offense of Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree, a class "D" Felony, and the Workers' Compensation Law Offense of Penalties for Fraudulent Practices, a class "E" Felony.

The arrest comes as a result of a collaborative investigation conducted by members of the NYS Department of Financial Services, the Orange County District Attorney's Office, and the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation revealed that Robert Marra, who is deemed to be fully disabled, falsely reported the extent of his injuries to doctors and independent medical examiners. He has since participated in approximately twelve (12) Spartan-style races that are comprised of strenuous activities. Some of the activities involved were: Spear Throw; Horizontal Wall Traverse; Barbed Wire Crawl; Wall Jumps; Rope Climb; Bucket Carry; Inverted Wall; Rolling Mud; and Burpees. In addition to those activities, Marra participated in a strenuous Ibex Hunt, in Spain, that requires good physical conditioning due to the difficulty of the terrain.

As a result of the false claim of disability, Marra received \$33,700.00 in benefits from the NYS Workers' Compensation fund that he was not entitled to.

Marra was arraigned before the Honorable Judge Clarino, of Newburgh Town Court, and released on his own recognizance pending a future court appearance in the Town of Crawford Court.

Orange County Sheriff Carl E. DuBois stated, "This successful, collaborative effort has resulted in ending a fraud that was perpetrated on a fund resource that was designed to aid those who have legitimate disabilities."

Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler stated, "Workers' Compensation is for people in need, due to injuries on the job. It's not meant to be an extra source of income for those who aren't injured, or for those who have recovered from their injuries. Our cooperative effort in this case with the Sheriff's Office and the State Department of Financial Services is part of my Office's larger commitment to investigating and prosecuting crimes involving the theft of government funds"

~ A C C R E D I T A T I O N S ~



New York State Department of Financial Services spokesperson Linda Lacewell stated, “Abusing the workers’ compensation system is a crime that victimizes all honest New Yorkers who contribute part of their paycheck to help employees injured while on the job. The Department of Financial Services will continue to work collaboratively with local law enforcement to protect consumers and taxpayer dollars, and we are pleased to have worked with the Orange County Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s Offices on this important matter.”

Notice: A criminal charge is merely an allegation by the police that a defendant has committed a violation of the criminal law, and it is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the State of New York’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

References:

Ibex Hunt Spain. (n.d.). Retrieved May 7, 2019, from <https://www.ibexhuntspain.com/>

Spartan Obstacle Races. (n.d.). Retrieved May 7, 2019, from <https://www.spartan.com/en/the-race>

Workers' Compensation Board. (n.d.). Retrieved May 7, 2019, from <http://www.wcb.ny.gov/>



Robert Marra