

**STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION
REPORT**

DATE WRITTEN BY AGENT: October 27, 2020

CASE NUMBER: SIS-2020-0323

CASE NAME: Guillermina Fuentes

REPORT TYPE: Prosecution Report SIS-2020-0323

AGENT: Knuth, William
SUPERVISOR: Supervising Special Agent John White

Start Date:

End Date: 10/26/2020

Dollar Amount Loss: \$0.00

Proposed Offense: ALL OTHER OFFENSES (33429)

Case Summary: Yuma County SO was advised of individuals allegedly tampering with ballots at a polling location in San Luis, Arizona. A group of subjects, lead by Guillermina Fuentes were seen on video manning a table and appearing to be supporting particular candidates. Fuentes is seen on the video accepting a ballot from another female. It appears that after she receives the ballot, Fuentes makes some markings on the ballot, seals the envelope, then takes what appear to be several other ballot envelopes from the table and proceeds to the polling place with the second female carrying the ballots. A ballot box containing potentially suspicious ballots was secured by Yuma County SO personnel. Prior to the Arizona Attorney General's Office involvement in this case, those ballots were submitted for latent fingerprint processing. The Yuma County SO requested the assistance of the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the case was transferred to this office.

On August 10, 2020, I spoke with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office investigator assigned to this case, Sgt. Hemstreet. Arrangements were made for me to travel to Yuma on August 13, 2020. I returned to Yuma on October 14, 2020 for further investigation. The following is a summary of the investigation:

August 13, 2020 - Yuma / San Luis

I met with Sgt. Hemstreet at a Yuma County investigations building. I was briefed on information gathered up to that point and evidence which had been secured. I viewed a recording taken by the complainant in this case, Gary Snyder. The video recording was taken at a polling place located at 1015 North Main Street in San Luis, Arizona. In the video, a group of individuals are observed gathered around a table. Many of the individuals are wearing blue shirts with the names of candidates on the back. The listed candidates are Matias Rosales, Gloria Torres and Luis Cabrera, all candidates for City Council. A female identified as Alma Juarez approached the table and made contact with a second female identified as Guillermina Fuentes. Fuentes is ultimately observed taking a ballot from Juarez. In the video, it is clear that the ballot envelope was unsealed. Fuentes was observed to pick up a pen or pencil and write on the ballot envelope. She then pulls the ballot out of the envelope and makes three marks consistent with the filling in of spaces on a ballot to make a candidate selection. Fuentes put the ballot back in the envelope and sealed it. She then retrieved several more ballot envelopes from a folder on the table and handed them to Juarez. Juarez then walks toward the polling location.

I traveled to San Luis with Sgt. Hemstreet and Detective Jesser, a Spanish speaker. We contacted and interviewed the Justice of the Peace in Precinct 2, Juan Guerrero. Guerrero stated he believed a group of influential subjects, including Fuentes, is exchanging money for the ballots of community members.

Sgt. Hemstreet informed me that Fuentes had made an earlier complaint to election officials regarding a group called "Chispas". We contacted Fuentes regarding this complaint with the ultimate goal of obtaining information useful to the investigation. While answering a question asked by Hemstreet, Fuentes appeared to make an unintentional slip and commented on "buying ballots". I clarified with Fuentes that she had used those words to which she responded by laughing and stating that is what people accuse her of doing.

August 29, 2020 - Latent Fingerprints

On August 29, 2020, I was informed by Sgt. Hemstreet that latent fingerprints had been lifted from suspicious ballots collected on August 4, 2020.

On September 14, 2020, Sgt. Hemstreet advised he had obtained a warrant to collect fingerprints from Fuentes and had served that warrant.

On September 22, 2020, Hemstreet advised that the fingerprint evidence had been transferred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for comparison.

October 14, 2020 - San Luis Interviews

On October 14 and 15, 2020, I traveled to San Luis to attempt to interview subjects identified as having turned in suspicious ballots on August 4, 2020. I was assisted by Attorney General's Office SA D. Carroll, Sgt. Hemstreet and Detective Peralta, also with the Yuma County Sheriff's Office. In addition to interviews with those related to ballots, I also wanted to interview Monica Corral, who was identified as a witness in this case.

Interview of Monica Corral

I interviewed Corral at her residence. Corral stated she had been employed by Guillermina Fuentes at her construction company. Corral stated that during the time leading up to the 2016 general election, she was given envelopes which she determined contained money. Fuentes informed her who would come to pick up the envelopes, and at the time of pick up would either leave a ballot or provide a time when Fuentes could come pick up their ballot.

Corral stated that the majority of the envelopes dropped off at the business were unopened, as if they were just received in the mail. Corral was employed by Fuentes from August through January. During that time, Corral estimated that an excess of fifty ballots were dropped off.

Corral stated that she has had no contact with Fuentes since the time of her employment, however, she had observed Fuentes going door to door in neighborhoods around San Luis. She believes Fuentes was doing this to solicit ballots.

Other interviews

Several subjects were located and interviewed regarding their ballots for the August 4, 2020 primary election. At the residence of Isabel Ciniceros, Viridiana Salazar and Jesus Cisneros I was informed that a male and a female had come to the residence asking if they could pick up ballots. At that time, however, nobody at the residence had received their ballots by mail yet. The household ballots were ultimately taken to a ballot drop box.

At the residence of Magdalena Guiverra, she informed me that a female had called the residence and asked if she could pick up ballots. The female later arrived at the residence and collected Guiverra's ballot as well as the ballots of Angelica Robles and Ricardo Robles who also live at the residence.

Sgt. Hemstreet also conducted several interviews. The results of those interviews will be included in a Yuma County supplement.

October 20, 2020 - Contact with David Lara

On October 20, 2020, David Lara sent me screen shots of communication with a female identified as Lizbeth Vasquez, as well as a screen shot of a Facebook post sent by Brian De La Hoya of Yuma County Precinct 29. The Facebook post is an invitation to citizens of Yuma County to attend a "ballot drop off carpool" in Somerton, Arizona. In the header of the post, De La Hoya "is with Guillermina Fuentes".

The communications involving Vasquez mention a female subject who was witnessed with several ballots in her

vehicle. A subject by the name of Fernando Quiroz is also mentioned as possibly witnessing the large number of ballots in the female's vehicle. Arrangements are being made to contact and interview Lizbeth Vasquez and Fernando Quiroz.

Summary

The video evidence obtained from Gary Snyder, which he recorded on August 4, 2020 at the San Luis polling location at 1015 N. Main Street, clearly shows Guillermina Fuentes marking a ballot provided to her by Alma Juarez. The video also shows that Fuentes was in possession of several other ballots on August 4, 2020, and gave those ballots to Juarez to deposit at the polling location. Testimony of Monica Corral establishes a pattern and history of collecting ballots and in some cases providing monetary compensation for those ballots. Corral's statement also explains that Fuentes has continued to be allowed to engage in suspicious activity regarding ballots without question due to her "powerful" position in the San Luis community. Statements of community members in San Luis support the theory that individuals canvass neighborhoods in San Luis and solicit ballots. The Facebook post of Brian De La Hoya and the witnessing of multiple ballots in a vehicle suggests that a group of individuals, including Guillermina Fuentes are openly collecting and transporting ballots throughout the San Luis area.

Based on this investigation, I believe there is evidence to support that Guillermina Fuentes has violated several sections of ARS 16-1005, including sections A and B, and possibly sections E,F,G and H.

END OF REPORT

SUBPOENA LIST

Type: Complainant	First Name: Gary	Middle:	Last: Snyder		AKA:	
Gender:	DOB:	SSN:	Hair:	Eyes:	Height:	Weight:
Race:	Home:	Cell:	Work:		Fax:	
Address:		City:	State:	Zip:	Email: [REDACTED]	

Type: Witness	First Name: Monica	Middle:	Last: Corral		AKA:	
Gender:	DOB: [REDACTED]	SSN:	Hair:	Eyes:	Height:	Weight:
Race:	Home:	Cell: [REDACTED]	Work:		Fax:	
Address: [REDACTED]		City:	State:	Zip:	Email:	

Type: Witness	First Name: David	Middle:	Last: Lara		AKA:	
Gender:	DOB: [REDACTED]	SSN:	Hair:	Eyes:	Height:	Weight:
Race:	Home:	Cell: [REDACTED]	Work:		Fax:	
Address: [REDACTED]		City:	State:	Zip:	Email:	

Type: Witness	First Name: Magdalena	Middle: Edlin	Last: Robles Guiverra		AKA:	
Gender:	DOB:	SSN:	Hair:	Eyes:	Height:	Weight:
Race:	Home:	Cell:	Work:		Fax:	
Address: [REDACTED]		City:	State:	Zip:	Email:	