



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Summary



Print Date/Time: 04/13/2023 09:50
 Login ID: sheidmil
 Case Number: 2022-00022046

ORI Number:

Yuma County Sheriff's Office
 AZ0140000

Case

Case Number: 2022-00022046
 Location: [REDACTED]
 AZ
 Reporting Officer ID: 1362 - Hemstreet

Incident Type: Fraud Business Commercial
 Occurred From: 11/03/2020 08:00
 Occurred Thru: 11/03/2020 08:00
 Disposition: Open
 Disposition Date: 03/11/2022
 Reported Date: 03/11/2022 16:14 Friday

Offenses

No.	Group/ORI	Crime Code	Statute	Description	Counts
1	State	90Z	16-1005A (F)	Person Knowingly Marks Voted/Unvoted Ballot w/Intent To Fix Election, Is Class 5 Felony	1
2	State	90Z	16-1016.2 (F)	Voting - More than Once	1

Subjects

Type	No.	Name	Address	Phone	Race	Sex	DOB/Age
Suspect	1	CASTELLANO, MARIA DEL SORAIO	[REDACTED]		White Hispanic	Female	[REDACTED]
Victim	1	STATE OF ARIZONA	YUMA, AZ 85365				67

Arrests

Arrest No.	Name	Address	Date/Time	Type	Age
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Property

Date	Code	Type	Make	Model	Description	Tag No.	Item No.
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Vehicles

No.	Role	Vehicle Type	Year Make	Model	Color	License Plate	State
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OfficerID: jahe, Narrative

SYNOPSIS: This is a voter fraud case reported by the Yuma County Recorder's Office. I was advised that a subject had voted two times in Yuma County during the 2020 general election.

NARRATIVE: On 03-10-2022, at approximately 1400 hours, I met with officials from the Yuma County Recorders Office in reference to multiple different voter fraud cases that were occurring. Information was gathered and this case is pending extensive follow up.

ATTACHMENTS: None at this time.

SCENE: N/A

PROPERTY LOSS: N/A

EVIDENCE: Evidence gathered is in the form of copies of ballots and voter registration information that will later be added as attachments. The originals are locked in a vault at this time at the Yuma County Recorder's Office.

WITNESSES: N/A.

OFFICERS: N/A.

Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office

OfficerID: jahe, Supplement Narrative**Case Title: Voter Fraud****Date: 03/11/2022****Time: 1614****Case Agent: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362****Supplemental Report by: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362****Attachments:**

See attached Documents.

Narrative:

On 04-02-2022, at approximately 1447 hours, I went to [REDACTED] Lane in reference to this case in an attempt to contact Maria CASTELLANO.

Upon my arrival, Mrs. CASTELLANO answered the door, just as [REDACTED] pulled up in the driveway. I identified myself to both and advised that I was currently investigating a case involving the 2020 general election. I was advised that neither [REDACTED] or Maria spoke very good English and another subject there, identified as [REDACTED] offered to translate. I asked if they had voted in the 2020 general election and was advised that they had. I asked if they had voted in person or sent an early ballot and was told they sent their early ballots. At that time I asked how many early ballots they had received in the mail and I was told that it was one a piece. [REDACTED] advised that she was from Tucson, Arizona and that the Sheriff's Office over there had talked to her neighbor about voting issues. After I had no other questions I left.

Several minutes later I received a call from a source of information that [REDACTED] had called him and spoke to him in Spanish advising him that he was not sure if they gave me the correct information. The source was told that Maria did in fact get two early ballots and had sent them both in, several weeks apart. The source advised that [REDACTED] was requesting a call back to explain further.

I enlisted the assistance of Deputy Luna, P-82, for translation (no supplement needed). I then called [REDACTED] back and through translation I found that they did in fact get two ballots for Maria CASTELLANO. They thought that maybe something happened to the first one so they completed the second one and sent it back in. He does not recall if her name on the ballot was exactly the same. He also did not recall if she had ever received additional ballots in the past.

The name I was given by the Yuma County Recorder's Office was Maria Del Soraio CASTELLANO and the legal name for her is Maria Del Rosario CASTELLANO. It is possible she was sent two ballots with the different variations of her name. Or it could be that someone input the information incorrectly somewhere along the line. I have reached out to the Recorder's Office for clarification.

On 04-04-2022 I received a response from the Yuma County Recorder's Office and

found that Maria Del Rosario CASTELLANO had been sent two ballots because she held two active records in Yuma County. In the first record her date of birth is listed as [REDACTED] along with her Arizona operator's license information. In the second record her date of birth is listed as [REDACTED] with no Arizona operator's license information. The standard format for the date of birth in the United States is MM/DD/YY. In Mexico it is DD/MM/YY. It is possible that during a previous registration she inadvertently input her date of birth incorrectly which prompted the Yuma County Recorder's Office to create two records.

At this time I am unable to prove any kind of criminal intent and therefore this case will be closed unless new evidence arises.

No further information available at this time.

Case closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hemstreet', is positioned above the typed name.

Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

Supplement 2

**Yuma County Sheriff's Department
Patrol Division
Supplemental Report**

2022-22046

Case Title: Voter Fraud

Date: 03/11/2022

Time: 1614

Case Agent: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Supplemental Report by: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Attachments:

1. Signatures provided by the Yuma County Recorder's Office that were sent to the DPS Crime Lab for analysis and comparison.
2. Search warrant, affidavit and return, for the ballot envelopes with signatures
3. Registration and voter information provided by the Yuma County Recorder's Office.

Narrative:

Case background

Maria CASTELLANO voted two times in the November 3rd, 2020 general election and submitted ballot number 010G01 with ballot ID's B-39949890 and B-39978244 in batch numbers 6012 and 6017 respectively. Maria CASTELLANO is on the permanent early voting list (PEVL), in Arizona, and a ballot was automatically loaded into her record on 09-28-2020 (2) which were sent to her on 10-07-2020 (2) and later received completed on 10-16-2020, also 2 of them. This is in part due to the following: An ERIC In-State Voter Participation Report was distributed out to the counties from the SOS in August. While processing the data it was found Maria Del Rosario Castellano had two active voter records in Yuma County due to a clerical error. The duplicate record was produced in a prior voter database, PoweProfile. The first record, Maria did not provide her driver's license number and she had "Del Rosario" as the middle name. The newer record provided her driver's license number and "Del Rosario" as part of the last name. Her date of birth was also transposed.

All of the case numbers taken with this investigation are as follows: 2022-22045, 22046, 22048, 22050, 22051, 22053, 22055, 22056, 22057, 22058, 27859, 27860, 27861, 27862, 27863, 27864, 49812.

Currently the Arizona ballot envelopes, from the 2020 general elections, are locked in the vault at the Yuma County treasurer's Office and a court order is required to access them for signature comparisons.

**Yuma County Sheriff's Department
Patrol Division
Supplemental Report**

2022-22046

On 06-21-2022 a search warrant was drafted for the ballot envelope at the Yuma County Treasurers Office and signed by Judge Claudia GONZALEZ. On 06-22-2022 the search warrant was served and the ballot envelope was obtained. Copies of the signatures provided by the Yuma County Recorder's Office were sent with the ballot envelopes to the Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory for analysis and comparison. I am currently awaiting the results. On 06-23-2022 the search warrant was returned to Judge Kathryn STOCKING-TATE.



Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

OfficerID: jahe, Supplement Narrative

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Supplemental Report by: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Attachments:

None.

Narrative:

It was previously stated that this case was possibly an error however handwriting analysis was submitted for comparison and each voter fraud case will be handled in the same way.

As of 07-05-2022 I am currently awaiting the signature analysis from the Arizona Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hemstreet', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

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**Yuma County Sheriff's Department
Patrol Division
Supplemental Report**

2022-22046

Case Title: Voter Fraud

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Case Agent: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Supplemental Report by: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Attachments:

Attached is the Scientific Examination Report from the Arizona Department of Public Safety with the results of the handwriting analysis that was requested.

Narrative:

On 12-05-2022 I received the SER in reference to the handwriting analysis that was requested in this case. The results are attached to this supplement and a summary of the results is as follows:

Examination and comparison of questioned items #A1 and #A2 with known item #1 resulted in the following opinions:

- An examination of additional known signatures of Maria Del Rosario CASTELLANO is necessary for a meaningful comparison with the questioned signatures on items #A1 and #A2.
- The writing and signatures on items #A1 and #A2 appear to be the product of 1 writer.

As stated in the previous supplements Mrs. CASTELLANO thought that there was an issue with the ballot she submitted when she got another one in the mail. She filled out the second one and submitted it. Mrs. CASTELLANO freely admitted this when I spoke to her about it.

This case is being forwarded to the Yuma County Attorney's Office for review.



Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division

OfficerID: jahe, Supplement Narrative

See attached supplement.

Supplement 5

**Yuma County Sheriff's Department
Patrol Division
Supplemental Report**

2022-22046

Case Title: Voter Fraud

Date: 03/11/2022

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Case Agent: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Supplemental Report by: Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362

Attachments:

Attached is the declination from the Yuma County Attorney's Office.

Narrative:

On 12-16-2022 this case was declined by the Yuma County Attorney's Office. Case closed unless new evidence presence itself.



Sergeant J. Hemstreet #1362
Yuma County Sheriff's Office
Patrol Division