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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2006  
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**FORMER CHICAGO WATER DEPARTMENT DISPATCHER  
CHARGED WITH FALSE STATEMENTS IN HIRED TRUCK PROBE**

CHICAGO – A former dispatcher in the City of Chicago Department of Water Management was charged today with making false statements for allegedly lying to federal agents about his role with a trucking company that participated in the city's Hired Truck Program (HTP). The defendant, **Frank Cannatello**, was charged with one count of making false statements in a criminal information filed today in U.S. District Court, announced Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Cannatello, 30, of Chicago, was a water department employee from 1995 to 2005, working for the last five years as an emergency crew dispatcher assigned to the Jardine Filtration Plant. He will be arraigned later in U.S. District Court.

According to the information, Cannatello participated in the formation and operation of FRC Trucking, which participated in the HTP from approximately 1999 to March 2001, and earned HTP revenues of approximately \$20,000 in 1999; \$139,000 in 2000; and \$27,000 in 2001. Cannatello was related to the named owner of FRC.

On Dec. 14, 2005, Cannatello was interviewed by federal agents conducting the HTP investigation. He allegedly falsely stated that: he had absolutely nothing to do with FRC Trucking; FRC was his relative's company, to whom he did not speak much because they did not get along;

he did not help his relative get trucking business in the HTP and he did not know how his relative received business from the water department; he did not help his relative get HTP business; and he did not know from whom his relative got the idea to start FRC, but it was not from him.

In fact, however, the charges allege that Cannatello participated in the formation and operation of FRC and it was his idea, in part, to form the company; he discussed FRC operations with his relative; he asked a water department employee, Randy Aderman (also a defendant in the HTP investigation), to assist FRC in obtaining HTP business from the department; and Aderman did in fact provide assistance resulting in HTP business for FRC from the department.

Cannatello is the 43rd defendant charged in the federal investigation of the Hired Truck Program. Twenty-seven defendants have pleaded guilty, and the remaining defendants are awaiting trial, except one defendant who died prior to trial.

Mr. Fitzgerald announced the charges together with Robert D. Grant, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Vanderberg, Special Agent-in-Charge of the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General; Kenneth T. Laag, Inspector-in-Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; and Byram Tichenor, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, all in Chicago.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Manish Shah, Patrick McGovern, Julie Ruder, Patrick Collins and Barry Miller.

If convicted, Cannatello faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The Court, however, would determine the appropriate sentence to be imposed.

The public is reminded that an information contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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