



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

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**U.S. SETTLES CIVIL CHARGES AGAINST FORMER METRO NORTH  
EMPLOYEE FOR DEFRAUDING RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that JOHN J. CIPRIANI and JANICE CIPRIANI have agreed to pay \$100,000 to resolve civil False Claims Act charges and other civil claims arising from their unlawful receipt and use of federal benefits. The settlement agreement was filed in White Plains federal court and approved by United States District Judge KENNETH M. KARAS.

According to the Complaint, JOHN CIPRIANI - a former employee of Metro North Railroad - has been collecting disability benefits from the United States Railroad Retirement Board ("RRB") since 1993. As a condition of receiving those benefits, CIPRIANI agreed to immediately report any work or earnings that might affect the benefits.

During the years 2000, 2001, and 2002, CIPRIANI accepted other employment and earned wages, but did not inform the RRB as required. And when CIPRIANI re-certified his disability in July 2002, JOHN and JANICE CIPRIANI affirmatively stated to the RRB that he was not employed, and had no outside earnings. During this period, CIPRIANI received almost \$67,000 in RRB benefits, when he was only entitled to approximately \$11,000 because of his outside employment. In all, JOHN CIPRIANI received \$57,489.26 in benefits to which he was not entitled under the law.

Under the settlement agreement, the CIPRIANIS agreed to pay \$100,000. They have not admitted any liability or wrongdoing in connection with the settlement.

Mr. GARCIA thanked the Railroad Retirement Board, Office of the Inspector General, for its assistance in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney MATTHEW L. SCHWARTZ is in charge of the case.