



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Judge Finds Enough Evidence for Trial in Bribery Case Against Thousand Oaks Building Inspector

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Ray Allen Villanueva III (DOB 10/21/66) of Moorpark, and Jimmy Daniel Coronado (DOB 09/12/81) of Oxnard, have been held to answer following a preliminary hearing on July 22, 2026, for allegations they solicited a bribe from a contractor in return for a building permit in the City of Thousand Oaks. Villanueva is a building inspector for the City of Thousand Oaks. Both men are charged with one felony count of bribery.

“The public deserves confidence that building permits are issued based on the law, not personal favors or financial incentives,” said District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. “When local government authority is allegedly used to seek personal benefit, our institutions are undermined and public officials must be held accountable.”

In 2024, a state-licensed contractor was retained to complete a residential construction project in the City of Thousand Oaks. The City issued a building permit to the contractor for the project. The contractor hired Coronado to work on the project. After construction commenced, work was halted pending the contractor’s submission of revised building plans to the City of Thousand Oaks, which required City approval. Coronado is alleged to have approached the contractor and solicited a bribe in return for expediting the approval process. Coronado allegedly claimed he had a contact in the City who could streamline the approval and permitting process so work could resume on the residential construction project. The contractor declined the solicitation and reported it to the District Attorney’s Office. The DA’s Public Integrity Unit (PIU) then launched an investigation.

The PIU investigation revealed that between October and December 2024, Coronado and Villanueva allegedly conspired to solicit a bribe from the contractor. Villanueva is alleged to have approved a final building inspection in anticipation of receiving a bribe from the contractor, even though the project was unfinished when Villanueva approved the final inspection within the City’s

internal permitting system. Both men were arrested on September 10, 2025, by District Attorney's Office Investigators.

Coronado and Villanueva are scheduled to be arraigned on the information on August 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Both men remain out of custody on \$20,000 bail.

Case: 2024032095

Defendant Information:

Ray Allen Villanueva III (DOB 10/21/66)
Moorpark

Jimmy Daniel Coronado (DOB 09/12/81)
Oxnard

Charges:

- PC 68(a) - Bribery