January 17, 2020

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: OWNER OF HOME REPAIR COMPANY SENTENCED FOR THEFT

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today announced the owner of a home repair company was sentenced to prison after pleading guilty to stealing \$4,500 from victims in two separate cases.

Salvatore Lobello, Jr., 46, of St. Charles, Ill., was sentenced to three years in prison by Will County Circuit Court Judge Daniel Kennedy and three years in prison by McHenry County Circuit Court Judge Robert Wilbrandt, to be served concurrently. Lobello was also ordered to pay full restitution to his victims.

"Homeowners hired this individual and paid thousands of dollars for needed improvements that were never completed," Raoul said. "I am committed to continuing to hold accountable individuals who take advantage of customers for personal gain."

Lobello owned and operated the home repair company Affordable Residential Concrete, located in St. Charles, Ill. In 2017, he was hired to replace a concrete patio and sidewalk for a property in Lockport, Ill., and to replace a patio and garage floor for a home in Lake in the Hills, Ill. Lobello gave one homeowner an estimate of \$5,000 for the work and required a deposit of \$2,500, and he gave the second resident an estimate of \$4,000 with a \$2,000 deposit. In both cases, Lobello agreed to obtain the required permits after receiving the deposits, but failed to do so, did not return to complete any work, stopped corresponding with the victims, and refused to issue refunds.

Lobello also recently pleaded guilty to cases in DuPage and Kane counties for similar scams and was sentenced to three years in prison, to be served concurrently with his other sentences.

Investigator Tom Symenski with the Attorney General's Investigations Bureau conducted the investigation after the homeowners filed complaints with Raoul's Consumer Protection Division.

Consumers who believe they have been the victim of fraud can file a complaint on the Attorney General's <u>website</u> or by calling the Consumer Fraud Hotline at 1-800-243-0618.

Assistant Attorney General Maryanne Mlikotic handled the cases for Raoul's Criminal Enforcement Division.