



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY  
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# News Release

Timothy Jeffries, Director

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## **DES Office of Inspector General Investigation Leads to Arizona State Grand Jury Indictment of State Representative** *State Representative Velasquez Indicted for Suspected Fraud Against the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*

**PHOENIX** – Timothy Jeffries, Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), announced today the indictment of State Representative Cecilia Velasquez for suspected fraud against the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

State Representative Velasquez was charged by the Arizona State Grand Jury on May 23, 2016, with three felony counts: Fraudulent Schemes and Practices, Unlawful Use of Food Stamps, and Theft. The indictment was unsealed on June 20, 2016.

"I heartily commend the DES Office of Inspector General, the Criminal Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office and the Arizona State Grand Jury for their diligent and judicious work," said Director Timothy Jeffries. "The Arizona Department of Economic Security is vigilantly committed to protecting the public trust and taxpayer funds, safeguarding precious resources for the poor and disadvantaged, ensuring justice for all and defending the rule of law."

"The DES Office of Inspector General, in concert with the Criminal Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office, conducted a thorough investigation that commenced with a tip in November 2014," said Inspector General Juan J. Arcellana. "The indictment of State Representative Velasquez is the culmination of an extensive multi-year investigation. The forthcoming judicial proceedings will ensure due process for the involved parties."

The initial hearing is set for July 5, 2016, in Maricopa County Superior Court.

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*The Arizona Department of Economic Security makes Arizona stronger by helping Arizonans reach their potential through temporary assistance for those in need, and care for the vulnerable.*

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