

NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD NEWS RELEASE

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CONSUMER ALERT PATIO COVERS 4 LESS OWNERS ARRESTED FOR FRAUDULENT CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES, NOW BACK IN COMMUNITY

LAS VEGAS, NEV. – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is cautioning southern Nevada residents seeking patio and awning work from interacting with anyone affiliated with Patio Covers 4 Less (PCL) following their recent release from jail as they await judicial hearings later this month in Department 11 of the Las Vegas Regional Justice Center.

Ryan Bradley Vozzola, principal, and Amy Rusch, de facto partner, of PCL surrendered to the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department on felony charges stemming from 40 consumer complaints filed with the Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) alleging project abandonment and fraud after signing contracts for patio covers and awning installation projects. More than \$137,000 was obtained by PCL in the form of down payments with no work being performed on any of the projects investigated.

The NSCB revoked PCL's contractor's license in March of 2025 and began working with the Nevada Attorney General's Office to pursue criminal prosecution. Arrest warrants were issued for Vozzola and Rusch for counts of felony fraud/deceit in the course of an enterprise and felony theft.

"While we applaud the progress being made to bring Patio Covers 4 Less owners to justice, their release back into the community means consumers are vulnerable once again to their predatory and fraudulent practices," stated NSCB Executive Officer David Behar. "It is imperative for homeowners to verify the license of any contractor they bring to their home and to report any suspicious or concerning activities during such interactions. This contractor demonstrated its character with aggressive and threatening language and pressured tactics. Consumers can learn how to protect themselves using the Board's resources and hiring tips."

Many of the homeowners affected by PCL have filed claims with the Residential Recovery Fund for financial recourse based on damages validated by the NSCB; a fund supported by licensed contractor assessments to provide recourse to owners of single-family residences who incur damages during their project with a licensed contractor. Funds awarded may not exceed \$40,000 per claim.

To verify a contractor's license, consumers should visit the NSCB website, www.nscb.nv.gov, download the NSCB mobile application or call the Board's offices directly. It is important consumers look at the status of a license to ensure it is in an "active" or good standing, review any disciplinary actions taken, as well as verifying the contact information and license classification details mirror what was provided on any contract or documentation provided by the contractor.

Consumers can protect themselves by reading through the resources available online and watching for these red-flag warnings:

- No contractor's license number and/or contractor information does not match the NSCB's website.
- Aggressive sales tactics and pushy 'today-only' pricing.
- Demands for large down payments or cash-only payments.
- Failure to put the terms of a project in writing.

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MEDIA NOTE: Attached booking photos of Vozzola and Rusch for media purposes only.

The Nevada State Contractors Board is committed to ensuring the integrity and professionalism of the construction industry in Nevada. The NSCB has the responsibility to promote quality construction by Nevada licensed contractors through a regulatory licensing system designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. For more information about the Nevada State Contractors Board, please visit www.nscb.nv.gov.

Follow the Board on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.

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