



Wage Investigation Results in Arrest; Former A-1 Diner Employees Get Owed Wages Back

WETHERSFIELD, November 5, 2015 – An ongoing wage investigation has resulted in former employees of a West Haven diner getting back a portion of the wages they are owed. The Department of Labor’s Wage and Workplace Standards Division has recovered \$10,000 in owed wages for former employees of A-1 Diner that had operated at 340 Sawmill Road. Diner owner George Tsiorvas will also be providing an additional \$5,000 in owed wages to the employees, while his business partner, George Tsiolis, continues to owe the workers \$15,000 in owed wages.

After Tsiorvas and Tsiolis abruptly closed the diner this past May, the Labor Department determined that approximately \$30,000 in unpaid wages was owed to the workers. Complaints filed by 40 former employees resulted in a wage investigation that showed workers were owed between \$25 and \$6,000 for required overtime pay and minimum wage, and for wages that were not paid during the final two weeks the diner was open.

According to Wage and Workplace Standards Director Gary Pechie, arrest warrants were issued after the business partners ignored requests for wage repayment from the Labor Department. An active arrest warrant remains in effect for Mr. Tsiolis.

“Everyone deserves to be paid for the work they do and non-payment of wages is a criminal issue,” Pechie said. “Under state statutes, the actions of Mr. Tsiorvas constitute two felonies and 38 misdemeanors. While felony charges could require that he pay up to \$5,000 in fines and spend up to five years in jail, our focus has been to provide the former employees with the wages they earned, and we are hopeful that the additional \$15,000 in owed wages also will be recovered for the workers.

While we have many law-abiding companies in our state, unfortunately, this is an example of two employers taking advantage of their workforce,” Pechie added. “We encourage any individual who believes they have not been paid properly for hours worked to file a complaint with the Labor Department.”

Complaint forms can be downloaded from the agency’s website at www.ct.gov/dol or one can be mailed by calling 860-263-6790. Employers with questions regarding compliance with Connecticut wage laws are also encouraged to contact the agency and speak with wage staff for guidance.

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