



FARRAKHAN SON COPS OUT ON JOB

Mustapha Farrakhan, son of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, is a part-time Harvey police officer, but he hasn't worked a shift in more than 4 years

KIM JANSSEN REPORTS | 6-7



Mustapha Farrakhan, left, and (far left) with his father in 2007. | JOHNNY CRAWFORD-AP (RIGHT)

**THE WATCHDOGS
MORE UNO
MONEY
WENT TO
INSIDER**

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BOSTON TERROR



**SUSPECT
SAID TO BE
RESPONDING
IN WRITING**

PAGE 4

PULSE



**CRITIC'S
PRESENCE FELT
AT EBERTFEST**

PAGE 30



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LOTTERIES

For Sunday, April 21, 2013

ILLINOIS

Midday Pick 3—598
 Midday Pick 4—2233
 Midday My3—520
 Evening Pick 3—260
 Evening Pick 4—8467
 Evening My3—095
 Lucky Day Lotto—05 09 15 22 34
 Lotto Jackpot—\$6.95 million
 Mega Millions Grand Prize—
 \$92 million
 Powerball Jackpot—\$116 million

INDIANA

Daily 3—509 Daily 4—4251
 Cash 5—04 10 24 27 28
 Lotto Jackpot—\$9.5 million

MICHIGAN

Midday Daily 3—642
 Midday Pick 4—1083
 Evening Pick 3—455
 Evening Pick 4—2403
 Fantasy 5—01 16 32 35 37
 Classic 47 Jackpot—\$3.55 million

WISCONSIN

Pick 3—141 Pick 4—9855
 Badger 5—10 14 18 22 26
 Super Cash—03 10 18 25 34 36
 Megabucks Jackpot—\$1 million

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THE WATCHDOGS

THIS WEEK BY DAN MIHALOPOULOS

MORE UNO MONEY
WENT TO INSIDER

Weeks after Federico “Fred” d’Escoto stepped down from the board of the United Neighborhood Organization, his company, d’Escoto Inc., got its first check from the influential charter-school operator toward what now totals more than \$1.8 million in state-funded payments.

But d’Escoto Inc.’s ties to UNO — part of a pattern of insider hiring now under scrutiny by state authorities — date back years before that, internal documents obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times show.

The private, not-for-profit organization already had been using d’Escoto’s Chicago construction-management company for three years to do rehabilitation work on its largely taxpayer-funded charter schools, the records show.

And it did so even as d’Escoto was a member of UNO’s board and while his brother Miguel d’Escoto was both a top executive at UNO and a member of d’Escoto Inc.’s board, state and city government documents show.

UNO and its charter-school network have paid d’Escoto Inc. \$570,691 for its work on the renovation projects and for scouting



locations for new schools, according to UNO records.

Of that, \$212,491.75 was billed while Fred d’Escoto was on the UNO board.

Nearly \$300,000 was invoiced during the time Miguel d’Escoto simultaneously worked for UNO and sat on the board of his

brother’s company.

In February, the Sun-Times reported that UNO used money from a \$98 million state school-construc-

tion grant to hire d’Escoto Inc. and other companies with ties to the organization and its leaders. UNO then suspended d’Escoto Inc., Miguel d’Escoto resigned from his \$200,000-a-year post as UNO’s second-in-command and the state’s executive inspector general opened an investigation into the organization’s handling of the state grant.

UNO said it had done nothing wrong but was bringing in a former federal judge, Wayne Andersen, to review its contracting practices and its handling of the state grant — funding that was engineered by House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) and approved by the Illinois Legislature in 2009. Andersen would not comment.

UNO officials had said that Andersen’s review and recommendations would be completed by the end of March.

They declined to answer questions for this story, instead issuing a written statement that says: “UNO recognizes the need to update and improve its internal procurement process to match our rapid growth. We have said we can do better, and we will announce new

policies in the near future.”

Previously, they responded to questions about d’Escoto Inc. by noting that Fred d’Escoto left the organization’s board of directors before his company started doing work for them on the state-funded schools projects. Juan Rangel, UNO’s \$250,000-a-year chief executive officer, also said that Miguel d’Escoto — who was city transportation commissioner under former Mayor Richard M. Daley — wasn’t involved in hiring d’Escoto Inc. nor in giving other UNO contracts to Reflection Window Co. LLC, which is owned by another brother, Rodrigo d’Escoto.

Miguel d’Escoto says he informed UNO when he joined the board of d’Escoto Inc. “All appropriate disclosures were made to UNO management,” he says, declining to comment further.

Fred d’Escoto did not return calls.

Founded as a Hispanic community activist group, UNO operated just one charter school until 2005 — the year Fred d’Escoto joined its board. UNO now has 13 schools across the city of Chicago, with a total of more than 6,500 students, most of them Hispanic and from low-income families.

Its clout has grown as fast as its charter network. One sign of that growing influence: Rangel co-chaired Rahm Emanuel’s successful campaign to succeed Daley as mayor in 2011.

Before winning the \$98 million state grant, which is believed to be the largest government subsidy of charter schools in the country, UNO’s charter efforts had focused on rehabilitating old school buildings it leases from the Archdiocese of Chicago.

UNO officials note that the renovations have been financed by borrowing more than \$70 million through public bond offerings. But they rely on the tens of

millions of dollars a year they get from the Chicago Board of Education — which agreed Feb. 27 to renew UNO’s charter agreements for five years — to repay the borrowed money and cover the costs of running UNO’s schools.

D’Escoto Inc. began work on renovation projects in 2007. Fred d’Escoto remained on the boards of UNO and its charter network until June 2010, when he resigned. He had been secretary of both boards.

Under UNO’s conflict-of-interest policy at the time, its board members were allowed to do business with the organization but had to disclose the relationship to the board and receive approval.



Cesar Santoy

In 2008, a year after he became an UNO executive, Miguel d’Escoto was elected treasurer of the d’Escoto Inc. board, according to company records filed with City Hall. He stepped down from the board of his brother’s company in January 2011 and was replaced as its treasurer by his son, Miguel T. d’Escoto.

The father resigned Feb. 12 as UNO’s senior vice president of operations and chief of staff.

City and state records show another UNO official, Cesar Santoy, who was vice president of capital and construction projects, also was on the d’Escoto Inc. board at the time the company was doing work for UNO.

Santoy — who left UNO a year ago — is a Berwyn alderman. He says he doesn’t know whether Rangel knew of his involvement with d’Escoto Inc. He adds that he didn’t oversee d’Escoto Inc.’s contracts with UNO while he was on the company board and quit the board because the company was seeking more business with UNO.

“It was a conscious decision to step down, to avoid a conflict of interest, or the appearance of a conflict of interest,” Santoy says.



Rodrigo d’Escoto’s company’s work can be seen in the glass-and-metal siding at the UNO Soccer Academy Charter Elementary School, 5050 S. Homan. | BRIAN JACKSON-SUN-TIMES FILES

UNO deal helped VP’s brother build company

Before he and a partner started Reflection Window Co. in 2001, Rodrigo d’Escoto had struggled in business.

Another company he owned had gone bankrupt that year, court records show.

Things were also tough in the early days for Reflection Window, d’Escoto said in an interview Feb. 4 with an official of the city of Chicago’s minority-business certification program.

“Mr. d’Escoto explained that the first few years of the business were very slow, and the company had no real value,” city records show.

D’Escoto — who had owned half of the company — bought out 90 percent of his partner’s stake for just \$100 in 2004, the records show. The following year, he took full ownership, paying \$23,000 to buy out his partner’s remaining interest in the company.

It’s proved to be a wise investment for d’Escoto, thanks in good measure to state-funded, charter-school construction deals that Reflection Window landed with United Neighborhood Organization while his brother Miguel d’Escoto was a top UNO executive.

Reflection Window stands to make close to \$10 million from three state-funded UNO projects. The company has been paid about \$6.7 million for work on two UNO charter elementary schools, and it has a contract for another \$3.1 million to help build the group’s new Soccer Academy High School on the Southwest Side, the Sun-Times has reported.

Payments from UNO accounted for more than 57 percent of Reflection Window’s total revenue of more than \$7.6 million in 2011,

according to documents the company provided to City Hall that also show “distributions” to d’Escoto nearly doubled in two years. In 2009 — the year before the company started working for UNO — he made \$368,250, according to

Reflection Window’s filings with the city. By 2011, the records show, that figure had soared to \$727,523.

Asked about the UNO work, Rodrigo d’Escoto would not answer questions but emailed a statement in which he

said: “Reflection Window has been able to bid and win many projects with multiple general contractors over the last 10 years. These projects have included a variety of public and private owners and include award-winning buildings.”

His company’s work can be seen in the striking glass-

and-metal siding in which it clad the UNO Soccer Academy Charter Elementary School at 5050 S. Homan Ave. and the UNO Galewood Charter at 2050 N. Natchez Ave.

Juan Rangel, UNO’s chief executive officer, has told state officials UNO didn’t directly hire Reflection Window; its general contractors did. The general contractors, though, were chosen by Rangel with input from other UNO officials, including Miguel d’Escoto, and on the recommendation of UNO’s “owner’s representative” — d’Escoto Inc., owned by another d’Escoto brother, Federico “Fred” d’Escoto.

Republic Window’s contract called for it to be paid a little over \$4 million for the Soccer Elementary School job, but, because of changes that were later ordered, it ended up being paid more than \$4.4 million.



Rodrigo d’Escoto Jr.