

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Canadian Resident Arrested for Alleged Securities Fraud

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (November 15, 2013) Bryce Graham, Jr., District Attorney for Colbert County, Alabama and Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission announce the arrest of Gregory James Aziz, a Canadian national, on November 12, 2013, by officials at the Chicago Midway International Airport during a trip to the United States. He was detained by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and turned over to officers at the Chicago Police Department who swiftly coordinated with Alabama law enforcement. With the assistance of the Illinois Office of Secretary of State, Securities Department, Aziz waived extradition and will be transported to Alabama at a later time.

Aziz's arrest stems from an indictment returned by a Colbert County grand jury charging Aziz with 10 counts of Securities Fraud. According to the indictment, between September 2006 and July 2009, Aziz perpetrated a scheme to defraud the Retirement Systems of Alabama by knowingly supplying fraudulent financial information, and making false statements of material fact and omissions of material fact in connection with a loan and equity transaction between Aziz and the Retirement Systems.

If convicted on the Alabama charges, Aziz could face a maximum of 10 years in prison and fines, and be ordered to pay restitution to the Retirement Systems of Alabama for any loss attributable to his actions.

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(NOTE: An arrest or indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt in court).

For additional information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

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