

Feds clean up janitorial service More than 200 illegal immigrants, including 4 locally, are detained.

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Body

An investigation of **cleaning** crews working at a northern Michigan resort has led to **federal** fraud and tax charges being filed against three top officials at a nationwide **janitorial service** and the arrest of **more** than **200 illegal immigrants, including** four at one St. Louis-area business, government officials said.

The detainees - mostly Mexican nationals - who were rounded **up** early Thursday were working as janitors for Rosenbaum-Cunningham International Inc., or RCI, a Florida-based **cleaning** contractor.

Three men and a woman, all from Mexico, were **detained** at 2 a.m. Thursday at Dave & Busters in Maryland Heights. A spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement declined to give their names. No one from Dave & Busters could be reached for comment.

RCI co-owners Richard M. Rosenbaum, 60, of Longwood, Fla.; and Edward Scott Cunningham, 43, of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and firm controller Christina A. Flocken, 59, also of Longwood, face criminal fraud, immigration and tax charges in a 23-count indictment unsealed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids.

"This is not a case of bad bookkeeping or skirting the rules," said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the Detroit office of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "It involved flagrant criminal behavior."

Moskowitz said during a news conference in Grand Rapids that **federal** agents arrested Rosenbaum in Longwood earlier in the day. Cunningham and Flocken were expected to soon turn themselves in to **federal** authorities in Grand Rapids, where the case will be tried, he said.

Their practice of paying cash wages to their workers deprived the U.S. government of about \$18.6 million in employment taxes, according to the indictment.

About 203 **illegal immigrants** who worked for RCI were arrested and expected to be deported, Moskowitz said. Agents took them into custody at 63 business locations in 17 states and the District of Columbia.

An outgoing telephone message from RCI's headquarters in Palm Beach, Fla., said the company had "ceased operations" effective Thursday.

The joint ICE-IRS investigation began 20 months ago at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme in Michigan's northwestern Lower Peninsula.

Not only did RCI fail to pay employment taxes on its nationwide operations - its clients **included** such venues as Planet Hollywood, Hard Rock Cafe and ESPN Zone - but its top officials also had its supervisors procure and

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maintain a work force of illegal immigrants and authorized managers to provide them with fake resident cards, or green cards, according to the indictment.

The three company officials facing charges also set up shell companies to hide excess assets, the indictment says.

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