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**FORMER JOCKEY AGENT CHARGED WITH ILLEGALLY ACCESSING  
NEW YORK RACING ASSOCIATION'S COMPUTER SYSTEM**  
*Defendant Allegedly Bribed NYRA Employee For His Online Password*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, joined by New York State Police Superintendent Joseph A. D'Amico, today announced that former jockey agent Manuel Gonzalez has been charged with illegally accessing the New York Racing Association's (NYRA) computer system 170 times over a 15-month period by using the login and passwords of a NYRA employee whom he allegedly paid \$100 a month for his online information.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant is accused of 'hacking' into the Racing Association's computer system and illegally trolling for valuable racetrack-related data that he could use to his own advantage to secure horses for his jockey. In today's computerized world, cyber break-ins are a growing threat and will be dealt with in an appropriate manner when uncovered."

State Police Superintendent D'Amico, "The State Police treat computer crimes like every other crime – those who break the law will be held accountable. Gaining unauthorized access to a computer network is a serious crime and we will work aggressively to solve each case. I want to thank the Queens District Attorney and the New York Racing Association for their assistance in making this arrest."

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Manuel (a/k/a Mike) Gonzalez, 52, of 29 Wyandotte Avenue in Oceanport, New Jersey. Gonzalez was arraigned yesterday in Queens Criminal Court on a criminal complaint charging him with 170 counts of computer trespass and 170 counts of second-degree tampering with a sports contest. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the New York Racing Association maintains a computer system/database called InCompass which stores racetrack-related data, such as track conditions, thoroughbred statistics, thoroughbred health and injuries, thoroughbred availability and other restricted information. Access to the InCompass system is limited to only certain NYRA employees.

According to the charges, Gonzales paid a NYRA employee \$100 a month to unlawfully use the employee's login and password to access NYRA's InCompass system on 170 different occasions between January 2, 2014, and April 1, 2015. Gonzalez allegedly used the InCompass system to review racing sheets and other data that provided him with information – including the track conditions, health and injuries of the racehorses and the identity of racehorses in need of a jockey – which he used to his own advantage to secure horses for his jockey.

The investigation, which is continuing, was conducted by the New York State Police.

Assistant District Attorney Rebecca L. Height, of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gregory C. Pavlides, Bureau Chief, and Christina Hanophy and Kristen A. Kane, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and the overall supervision of Peter A. Crusco, Executive Assistant District Attorney, Investigations Division, and Linda M. Cantoni, Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org).