



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
An Equal Opportunity Employer

DIVISIONS
Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Bill Richardson
Governor
Rick Homans
Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 4, 2008

CONTACT: David Harwell (505) 827-0313

**Rio Rancho Couple Indicted by Grand Jury on
Conspiracy, Fraud and Tax Evasion**

BERNALILLO – On July 31, 2008, the Grand Jury of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court in Sandoval County indicted Billy Sanchez and Rosalie Trujillo for their alleged sales scheme involving the sale of racehorses that the couple did not own. “Committing fraud and not paying taxes is never acceptable in New Mexico. Our tax fraud division will find you and prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law,” remarked Rick Homans, Secretary of Taxation and Revenue.

According to a previous media release, the alleged sales scheme included at least 20 victims that claimed they were defrauded of approximately \$183,000 after attempting to purchase racehorses or a percentage interest in racehorses from Billy Sanchez and Rosalie Trujillo. In one case, the racehorse that the couple attempted to sell had been euthanized, according to the actual owner of the horse.

Billy A. Sanchez was indicted on 1 count of conspiracy, 20 counts of fraud and 2 counts of tax evasion. Rosalie N. Trujillo was indicted on 1 count of conspiracy, 20 counts of fraud and 3 counts of tax evasion.

The charges were the result of an investigation conducted by the New Mexico Racing Commission, the Rio Rancho Police Department and the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. The investigation was first initiated after the Racing Commission received complaints about Billy Sanchez and Rosalie Trujillo from potential buyers of racehorses. A follow up investigation revealed additional victims.

The case is being prosecuted by District Attorney Lemuel Martinez’s office of the Thirteenth Judicial District in Sandoval County. According to Martinez, “This investigation is a good example of how various state agencies can work together and use their unique

skills to enforce the law". Martinez further stated that his office has established a close working relationship with many of the State's enforcement agencies for just this type of case.

To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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