

Susana Martinez
Governor

Demesia Padilla, CPA
Cabinet Secretary

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2015

Contact: Robert McEntyre
(505) 670-7024

Roswell Tax Preparer Charged with Fraud and Racketeering

SANTA FE – A Roswell tax preparer has been charged with tax fraud and racketeering for fraudulently preparing tax returns for 28 individuals from 2011 to 2014.

Sylvia Franco, of Roswell, owned and operated Sylvia Tax Service, where she allegedly prepared tax returns with fraudulent, inflated tax deductions. Franco is charged with 50 counts of tax fraud, 28 counts of fraud, and one count of racketeering. By fraudulently inflating tax deductions, Franco purportedly ensured her clients would receive larger refunds and cheated the State of New Mexico out of \$120,493 in taxes owed.

Arrest and search warrants were issued on Friday, March 6, 2015, and Franco has been taken into custody by the Roswell Police Department. She was arraigned on Monday, March 9, 2015, by Judge John Halvorson of 5th Judicial Circuit and bail was set at \$25,000.

“Tax defrauders will be aggressively pursued in New Mexico,” said Demesia Padilla, Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. “Tax preparers have no place to fraudulently operate in our state and we hope this sends a strong message to those seeking to defraud the citizens and State of New Mexico.”

This case was investigated by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department Tax Fraud Investigations Division. Criminal Investigator Candice Molina worked with the 5th Judicial Circuit District Attorney Janetta Hicks and the Roswell Police Department to file the charges.

The New Mexico Department of Taxation and Revenue welcomes any tip of suspected Tax Fraud and the 24-hour Fraud Hotline 1 (866) 457-6789 is available to report any suspected violations.

###