



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

Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2008

CONTACT: David Harwell (505) 827-0313

Sandia Park Fugitive Arrested for Failure to Appear on Tax Evasion Charges

Santa Fe – Karl Erich Mehner, of Sandia Park, was arrested on a Bench Warrant issued by First Judicial District Court Judge Stephen Pfeffer. Judge Pfeffer issued the Bench Warrant on December 1, 2006 after Mehner failed to appear at his arraignment on four felony counts of attempts to evade tax. Mehner, a fugitive since December 2006, was arrested by officers of the U.S. Marshals service and the Santa Fe County Sheriff's Department. TRD Secretary Rick Homans commented on the arrest: "New Mexico relies on voluntary tax compliance from all our hard working citizens. Make no mistake—if you attempt to evade paying your taxes, we will find you and prosecute you."

Mehner was indicted by a Santa Fe County grand jury on November 2, 2006 for willfully attempting to evade his New Mexico Personal Income Tax or the payment thereof for the tax years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

Mehner pleaded not guilty at the arraignment, and is currently being held at the Santa Fe County Detention Center on a \$200,000 cash only bond awaiting trial. A trial date has not been set.

If convicted, Mehner faces imprisonment of one year and a fine of \$1,000 to \$10,000 on each count.

The case was a result of an investigation by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division. The Division is currently conducting over 50 investigations throughout the State of New Mexico in a number of industries and occupations.

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

#30#