



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ALBUQUERQUE-BASED HALFWAY HOUSE  
CHARGED WITH FEDERAL EMBEZZLEMENT AND TAX OFFENSES**

*Defendant Allegedly Stole Funds Intended to Cover Costs Associated  
with Providing Residential Services to Defendants in Federal System*

ALBUQUERQUE – On Aug. 8, 2012, a federal grand jury returned a seven-count indictment charging Robin Cash, 55, of Albuquerque, N.M., with four counts of theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and three counts of willful failure to file a tax return. Cash has been summoned to appear in federal court in Albuquerque on Aug. 23, 2012, for arraignment on the indictment.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that, at the time of the offenses alleged in the indictment, Cash was employed as the Executive Director of the La Pasada Halfway House (La Pasada). La Pasada is a residential center located in Albuquerque that provides housing for individuals in the federal criminal justice system, including defendants awaiting trial and those who are re-entering society after serving a term of incarceration.

According to the indictment, the Pretrial Services Office (PTS) of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico contracted with the not-for-profit corporation that operates La Pasada to cover the costs of providing a custodial residential environment for federal defendants. PTS made monthly payments of approximately \$60,000 to \$80,000 to La Pasada to cover these costs, and La Pasada deposited the funds in its business bank account.

The indictment alleges that in April 2008, Cash became Executive Director of La Pasada at an annual salary of approximately \$45,000. Thereafter, Cash was added as a signatory on the halfway house's business bank account and received a debit card for the account. From Sept. 2008 through Jan. 2011, Cash allegedly made unauthorized debits to La Pasada's business bank account and used the proceeds for her own benefit and not those of La Pasada. The unauthorized debits allegedly included: checks written to Cash's family members for services that were never provided to La Pasada; ATM withdrawals at various Albuquerque locations, including casinos; and debit card charges at casinos in Las Vegas, Nev.

The indictment further alleges that, in April 2010, Cash allegedly opened a checking account and corresponding bank account in the name of La Pasada without authorization. Thereafter and until Feb. 2011, Cash allegedly took funds from residents at La Pasada on a regular basis and deposited the funds into the unauthorized account. She then allegedly used the funds to pay for personal expenses that did not benefit La Pasada.

Based on the foregoing, Counts One through Four of the indictment allege that, while acting as an agent of an organization that received at least \$10,000 in funds on an annual basis under a federal program, Cash embezzled more funds from the organization and converted those funds for her own use. Specifically, Count One alleges that Cash embezzled more than \$5,000 between Sept. 2, 2008 and Dec. 22, 2008; Count Two alleges that she embezzled more than \$5,000 between Jan. 5, 2009 and Dec. 14, 2009; Count Three alleges that she embezzled more than \$5,000 between Jan. 3, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010; and Count Four alleges that she embezzled more than \$5,000 between Jan. 3, 2011 and Feb. 17, 2011.

Cash also is charged with failing to file federal income tax returns for calendar years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Specifically, Counts Five through Seven allege that Cash failed to file income tax returns in 2008 when she had a gross income of approximately \$46,104; in 2009 when she had a gross income of approximately \$113,248.5; and in 2010, when she had a gross income of approximately \$173,526.71.

On conviction, each of the four theft offenses carries a maximum sentence of ten years of imprisonment and a \$250,000, and each of the three tax offenses carries a maximum one-year term of imprisonment and a \$25,000 fine.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David C. Anderson.

Charges in indictments are only accusations. All criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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