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PRESS RELEASE

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RIO RANCHO COUPLE CHARGED WITH FEDERAL TAX EVASION OFFENSES

On December 15, 2010, a federal grand jury in Albuquerque indicted Rio Rancho residents **Joseph C. Kupfer**, 47, and **Elizabeth D. Kupfer**, also known as “Daisy E. Kupfer, 48, on federal tax evasion charges. The three-count indictment alleges that Mr. and Mrs. Kupfer unlawfully failed to report at least \$768,333 in taxable income during the years 2004 through 2006 thus evading \$286,175 in taxes due and owing to the United States. If convicted of the charges in the indictment, Mr. and Mrs. Kupfer each face up to five-years imprisonment. The Kupfers are scheduled for arraignment on the indictment before United States Magistrate Judge Lorenzo F. Garcia at 9:30 a.m. on December 28, 2010.

According to the indictment, during the years 2004 through 2006, Mr. Kupfer received income from his business Kupfer Consulting, and the Kupfers reported income from Kupfer Consulting on their joint personal tax returns. The indictment alleges that, during those three years, the Kupfers received \$1,304,421 in revenue from Kupfer Consulting but reported only \$502,541 on their tax returns. The Kupfers are charged with knowingly taking steps to conceal approximately \$768,333 in income by providing

incomplete information to their tax preparer and thus avoiding paying taxes on that amount. The indictment also charges the Kupfers with signing false and fraudulent tax returns and submitting those returns to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Count 1 of the indictment charges that for tax year 2004 the Kupfers claimed \$125,969 income but failed to include another \$140,000 in income thus evading \$51,054 in taxes owed to the IRS.

Count 2 of the indictment charges that for tax year 2005 the Kupfers claimed \$170,625 income but failed to include another \$170,000 in income thus evading \$64,751 in taxes owed to the IRS.

Count 3 of the indictment charges that for tax year 2006 the Kupfers claimed \$125,734 income but failed to include another \$458,333 in income thus evading \$170,470 in taxes owed to the IRS.

Joseph Kupfer, Elizabeth Kupfer and others, including Rebecca Vigil-Giron, previously were indicted by New Mexico Attorney General Gary King on numerous state offenses, including fraud, money laundering, tax fraud and kickback offenses. The state defendants have entered not guilty pleas to those charges which are pending trial in the Second Judicial District Court for the States of New Mexico.

This case was investigated by the IRS – Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Tara C. Neda and Cynthia L. Weisman.

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

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