



PRESS RELEASE

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**LAGUNA PUEBLO MAN INDICTED ON A DOMESTIC
ASSAULT BY A HABITUAL OFFENDER CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning, Timothy Luke Perea, 41, a member and resident of Laguna Pueblo, was arraigned on an indictment charging him with domestic assault by a habitual offender. Perea entered a not guilty plea to the indictment and was ordered detained pending trial based on findings that he poses a danger to the community.

The indictment, which was returned under seal on Oct. 10, 2012, alleges that Perea assaulted a woman on March 6, 2011, in Indian Country located within Cibola County. It further alleges that Perea previously had been convicted of an assault against a spouse or intimate partner on two occasions: on Aug. 29, 1997, when he was convicted of assault resulting in serious bodily injury in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico; and on Oct. 20, 1997, when he was convicted of aggravated battery against a household member in the 2nd Judicial District Court for the State of New Mexico.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Perea faces up to five years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine if convicted of the offense charged in the indictment.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Southern Pueblos Agency, and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney David Adams.

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

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