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PRESS RELEASE

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**REALTY COMPANY FINED FOR ILLEGAL
DUMPING**

El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez announced today the sentencing of a corporation accused of violating the State Illegal Dumping Statute on a piece of property in Northeast El Paso County.

Through the coordinated efforts of the Special Investigations Unit of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Bill Walker Realty was charged with illegal dumping, in violation of the Texas Health and Safety Code, section 365.012.

The offense occurred on or about March 25, 2004 when an employee of the YWCA on Texas Avenue found several 5-gallon containers filled with an unknown substance behind the YWCA property. The substance turned out to be industrial dyes. The dyes were traced back to one of the properties owned by Bill Walker Realty, who pled guilty to illegal dumping.

On September 6, 2006, Judge Alma Trejo, assessed Bill Walker Realty a \$1,000.00 fine, court costs, and restitution in the amount of \$3,200 to the YWCA, the cost of legally disposing of the dyes.

“Illegal dumping is a serious environmental crime which we will prosecute to the fullest extent of the law,” said Rodríguez. “Illegal dumping, especially the dumping of industrial waste, is dangerous and bad for the environment because it contaminates the land. It is unfair for the victim to have to pay for the expensive legal disposal of

unscrupulous illegal dumpers, looking to save a buck by illegally disposing of their waste.”

Rodríguez added that illegal dumping is an on-going problem in the county of El Paso, and he stressed that the County Attorney’s Office will continue to prosecute such offenders. The penalty for illegal dumping ranges from a fine up to \$10,000 for an individual, or up to 2 years in jail, or both. For an association or corporation, the fine is up to \$10,000.

To report illegal dumping or other environmental crime, call your local law enforcement agency, the Environmental Hotline at 1-888-6EL-PASO, El Paso Police Dept. at 832-4400, or El Paso Sheriff’s Dept. at 546-2280.