

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

Post Office Box 304700

Montgomery, Alabama 36130-4700

Telephone: (334) 242-2984 or 1-800-222-1253 Fax: (334) 242-0240

Email: asc@asc.alabama.gov Website: www.asc.alabama.gov

Jefferson County Woman Arrested for Alleged Violations of Alabama Securities Act

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (Mar. 7, 2011) Brandon K. Falls, District Attorney for the 10th Judicial Circuit, Jefferson County, Alabama; and, Joseph P. Borg, Director of the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC) announce that Deborah Faye Escott Lumpkin, a Jefferson County resident, was arrested Feb. 28, 2011 by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department for alleged violations of the Alabama Securities Act. Lumpkin was placed in Jefferson County jail under \$30,000 bond and was released the same day after making bond. Trial will be scheduled in Jefferson County Circuit Court at a later date.

As a result of an investigation by ASC Enforcement Division agents, a 13-count indictment was handed down by a Feb., 2011 session of the Jefferson County Grand Jury alleging Securities Fraud with Scheme/Artifice to Defraud, Failure to Disclose Material Facts, making Material Misrepresentations of Fact regarding an investment; and, Engaging in a Course of Business which Operates as a Fraud or Deceit Upon a Person. The indictment alleges that beginning in July 2003, Lumpkin, acting as president of Birmingham-based Helping Hands Development, LLC, defrauded a Michigan investor of \$50,000 in connection with the proposed development of Senior Villas, a low-income housing project to be constructed in Birmingham. ASC records indicate that neither Lumpkin nor her company was registered with the Commission to conduct securities business in Alabama, as required by the Alabama Securities Act.

The ASC cautions potential investors to thoroughly scrutinize and research any investment opportunity or offer. Contact the ASC with inquiries concerning securities broker-dealers, agents, investment advisers, investment adviser representatives, financial planners, registration status of securities or debt management programs, to report suspected fraud or to obtain consumer information. The ASC provides free investor education and fraud prevention materials in print, on our website and through educational presentations upon request.

(NOTE: An arrest or indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the government meets its burden of proving guilt beyond reasonable doubt in court).

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For further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

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