



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor's Office Issues Statement on Release of Inmate

SANTA FE – The Governor's Office today released the following statement in response to the discovery of a clerical error made in 2002 that resulted in the early release of inmate Herbert Perkins.

"It is unacceptable that an error of this magnitude, which happened during the prior administration, was made in the first place," said Gilbert Gallegos, a spokesman for Governor Bill Richardson. "We should not have had to clean up after that mess.

"Nevertheless, the victim in this case should not have to worry about who is at fault," Gallegos said. "The Corrections Department will be held to the highest standards to prevent similar mistakes in the future."

The prior administration's error was not discovered before Perkins was released from prison, which has prompted Governor Richardson to:

1. Direct the Corrections Department to establish a Records Bureau with trained, legal staff to thoroughly review the 20,000 files that track inmates' sentences;
2. Immediately audit the files for all inmates released within the past 12 months.

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