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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

\$464,870 IN CURRENCY AND TRUCK TRACTOR SEIZED

On July 19, 2013, the State of Texas through the Ellis County and District Attorney's Office filed seizure petitions against \$464,870 in U.S. Currency and a 2007 Kenworth Truck Tractor. According to the Affidavit filed by the Texas Department of Public Safety, on July 17 troopers stopped the truck being driven by Omar Nicolas Lopez (age 37 from Mission, Texas) on Interstate 35 for three (3) different traffic violations. Once stopped, Lopez told the troopers that he owned the truck and was coming from Chicago. In reviewing his log book and observing Lopez behavior during the traffic stop, troopers had reason to believe that criminal activity was occurring. Troopers asked for and were given consent to search the tractor and trailer. During the search of the sleeper area of the tractor, troopers located an orange tool box that had recently been attached to the tractor. Inside the tool box were 45 heat sealed bundles containing United States currency. The currency was bundled and marked for distribution in a manner consistent with narcotics trafficking. Lopez told troopers that he did not know anything about the money. The DPS narcotics detection dog alerted to the money. Lopez was arrested for money laundering over \$100,000 and bond was set at \$60,000. Lopez was released on July 18 after posting bond. The Texas Department of Public Safety requested seizure of the currency and the Ellis County Sheriff's Office requested seizure of the tractor. Both petitions have been filed and are pending civil proceedings.

