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NEWS RELEASE

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PASTOR SENTENCED IN MORTGAGE SCAM

A local church pastor accused of stealing tens of thousands of dollars through a mortgage fraud scheme has been sentenced today.

Harold Joe Hicks (dob: 10-09-44) was found guilty early of three counts of forgery and today was sentenced to a total of 6 years of probation supervised by the Economic Crime Unit. A condition of his probation is that he cannot be employed directly or indirectly in any aspect of the real estate industry.

Hicks told the Court he cannot show remorse because it was not within his character to have done what he had been accused of. Hicks was accused of using surrogate buyers, facilitated the submission of mortgage loan applications with false information to secure loans at a lower interest rate.

A restitution hearing is set for October 28, 2010 at 1:30 in Denver District Court 5D.