

Texas Lottery Commission Press Release - May 21, 2003

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Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Presents \$350,000 Bonus To Spring Retailer

(Spring, May 21) - Today, Texas Lottery Commission Executive Director Reagan E. Greer presented a ceremonial bonus check for \$350,000 to Karim Maknojia, owner of Spring Texaco, located at 5035 FM 2920, in Spring. The retail location sold the jackpot-winning *Lotto Texas*[™] ticket for the drawing held on April 23, worth \$35 million.

"This is the second \$350,000 bonus a Houston-area retailer has received in the last month," said Greer. "Both have been bonuses for selling winning tickets for two different \$35 million *Lotto Texas* jackpots. That's a great boon to Houston retailers."

Accepting the ceremonial check, Maknojia said learning he had sold the jackpot-winning ticket did not come as a big surprise.

"On the day before the Wednesday drawing, I had a strong feeling, the first time in the four years I have owned this store, that we would be selling the winning ticket," recalled Maknojia. "I ran out to the parking lot to ask our sales representative what I should do if it turned out that we sold the ticket. It is so exciting, and I plan to give my employees a bonus, also."

The winner of the \$35 million jackpot, Spring Six Trust, of Kingwood, claimed its prize on May 6. The ticket was purchased with the Cash Value Option payment and earned the winner more than \$21.8 million, before taxes.

The Houston sales district area has 4,708 Texas Lottery[™] retailers. Since lottery tickets first went on sale in May 1992, the total paid in lottery retailer bonuses for the area is \$14,981,208.80. That total includes bonuses retailers earned for selling winning tickets for *Lotto Texas*, *Texas Two Step*[™], *Cash Five*[™], and instant games that have a top prize valued at \$1,000,000 or more. Retailers have earned more than \$14.2 million in bonuses for selling 132 *Lotto Texas* jackpot-winning tickets.

To date, Houston district retailers have accounted for more than \$8.4 billion in sales, which represents approximately 30 percent of all lottery sales statewide, as of May 6, 2003. Houston sales district area retailers are responsible for nearly \$802 million in sales during 2002, which is approximately 31 percent of the statewide total.

Tonight's *Lotto Texas* jackpot is worth an estimated \$20 million.

For more information about the Texas Lottery, please visit the official Texas Lottery Commission Web site at <http://www.txlottery.org>