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HEADLINE: Land commissioner candidate to return contribution

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BODY:

The Democratic candidate for state land commissioner says his campaign will return a \$10,000 contribution from a billionaire financier charged with solicitation of prostitution after authorities alleged he paid women for sex in his Florida mansion.

Jim Baca said his campaign doesn't have enough cash on hand to return the money in one lump sum, but will pay in \$1,000 installments and will have returned all Jeffrey Epstein's money before the end of the election.

Epstein who also has a home in Santa Fe County is alleged to have solicited sex between Aug. 1 and Oct. 31 of last year, according to an indictment charging him with one felony count of solicitation of prostitution.

His attorney, Jack Goldberger, has said Epstein "would never knowingly break the law."

The 53-year-old money manager gave thousands to New Mexico political candidates, including \$50,000 for to Gov. Bill Richardson's re-election campaign this year, according to state campaign contribution reports. Richardson's campaign said that money would be donated to charity.

Epstein also donated \$15,000 to Democratic attorney general candidate Gary King, who said he plans to return the money.

Information from: The Santa Fe New Mexican, <http://www.sfnewmexican.com>

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