



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**EVENT: Sentenced**

**Defendant: Demario D. Walk**

**DETROIT RESIDENT GOES TO JAIL FOR HELPING  
OTHERS DEFRAUD THE IRS**

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Demario D. Walk, 42, of Detroit, Michigan was sentenced today to one year and one day in prison followed by one year of supervised release as a result of his guilty plea to Aiding in the Preparation of a False Tax Return, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

In sentencing Walk, United States District Judge Patrick J. Duggan also ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$78,308 to the Internal Revenue Service.

According to court records, during 2001 and 2002, taxpayers, who were legitimate wage earners, would turn over their W-2 forms to Walk who created a false W-2 altering the amounts of monies reported on it. By inflating these amounts, the tax return, when prepared, would have maximized the Earned Income Credit, resulting in a significant income tax refund. Walk would then direct the taxpayers to a legitimate tax preparation service who would rely on the false W-2 in the preparation of their tax returns. When the refund checks became available at

the office where the tax return had been electronically filed, they would be picked up and cashed, the loan proceeds being split between the taxpayers and Walk. In one of the cases, Walk received \$2,000 in return for preparing the false W-2 which created a fraudulent claim of \$5,000.

According to the Internal Revenue Service, Walk has been identified as having caused the filing of 40 false tax returns, for the tax years 2000 and 2001, claiming refunds totaling approximately \$187,908. While most of these claims were not honored by the IRS, Walk did succeed in obtaining refunds totaling approximately \$78,308.

“Prosecution of people who prepare false W-2 forms in order to generate phony tax refunds is a form of fraud that will be met with a swift and sure prosecutorial response. Detecting, preventing, and eliminating this kind of conduct is crucial to maintaining public confidence in our tax system,” said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

“At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we treat with extreme seriousness,” said Aouate. “No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Richard Delonis.