



Department of Justice

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TWO PINELLAS COUNTY BUSINESSMEN **CHARGED WITH TAX FRAUD**

Tampa, Florida - Robert E. O'Neill, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that a federal grand jury has returned two separate indictments charging two Pinellas County businessmen with various income tax fraud charges.

The two defendants are:

JAMES T. LOVERN, age 37, a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

LEO J. CORRIGAN IV, age 38, a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida.

According to the allegations in the two indictments, JAMES T. LOVERN and LEO J. CORRIGAN IV co-owned and operated various businesses in Pinellas County between 2001 and 2004. Those businesses included: (1) Football Fantasies; (2) Advantage Plan Services; (3) Preferred Customer Service; (4) Customer Care Plus; (5) Customer Service Plus; (6) Consumer Grants USA; and (7) Preferred Long Distance. These businesses generated income to defendants JAMES T. LOVERN and LEO J. CORRIGAN IV, which income obligated them to file personal income tax returns and to pay any tax due and owing.

The indictment filed against JAMES T. LOVERN charges him with (1) filing a false tax return for 2001; (2) willfully failing to file tax returns for 2002 and 2003; (3) income tax evasion for 2004; and (4) unlawfully structuring \$174,500 in cash withdrawals from several

bank accounts. If convicted of all charges, JAMES T. LOVERN faces a maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment and a \$1.15 million fine.

The indictment filed against LEO J. CORRIGAN IV charges him with (1) filing a false tax return for 2001 and 2004; and (2) willfully failing to pay income tax due and owing for 2002 and 2003. If convicted of all charges, LEO J. CORRIGAN IV faces a maximum penalty of 8 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The two investigations were conducted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terry A. Zitek.

The two indictments are merely formal charges that the defendants have committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.
