



Department of Justice

United States Attorney James R. Dedrick

Eastern District of Tennessee

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SHELBYVILLE BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION

[CHATTANOOGA, TN]– Dharmendra B. Patel, 41, of Shelbyville, Tennessee, pled guilty today to one count of income tax evasion before U.S. District Judge Curtis L. Collier. Patel, owner and operator of Pik N Check convenience and check-cashing store located in Shelbyville, Tennessee, faces a maximum sentence of five (5) years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 when he is sentenced on May 1, 2008.

According to a Bill of Information filed January 22, 2008, Patel filed his 2004 tax return with the Internal Revenue Service that stated his taxable income for that year was \$2,916, when he knew his income for that calendar year was approximately \$184,957.

As part of his plea agreement, Patel admitted that the information provided to his return preparer regarding the gross income figure generated by him was significantly understated for both 2003 and 2004. Mr. Patel failed to report income of approximately \$169,437 and \$182,041 for 2003 and 2004, respectively. As a result, Patel admitted that the additional tax due and owing to the government as a result of his understatement is approximately \$53,232 for 2003 and \$60,827 for 2004.

As part of his plea agreement, Patel agreed to make full restitution to the Internal Revenue Service, including penalties and interest, by the time of his sentencing.

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary S. Humble represented the government.

For additional information, please contact United States Attorney James R. “Russ” Dedrick at 865545-4167; Assistant U.S. Attorney Gary Humble at 423-752-5140; or, Public Information Officer Sharry Dedman-Beard at 865-545-4167.