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Hampton Tax Return Preparer Pleads Guilty to Preparing False Tax Returns and Identity Theft

(Newport News, VA) – Barbara Moore, age 51, of Atlanta, Georgia, has pled guilty to one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns and one count of aggravated identity theft, in connection with an income tax return preparation businesses she operated in Hampton, Virginia and elsewhere. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after Moore's plea of guilty today in a case pending before United States District Judge Raymond A. Jackson in Norfolk, Virginia.

During the 2004 and 2005 tax preparation seasons, Moore operated J&B Tax and Accounting, Inc., and Henry8 Tax and Accounting in Hampton, Virginia. Through these businesses, Moore falsely portrayed herself as a certified public accountant and prepared approximately 92 tax returns for the 2004 tax year and approximately 69 tax returns for the 2005 tax year. For a number of tax returns, Moore falsely claimed unauthorized deductions, not provided by the clients, reducing the tax owed by her clients and, in some cases, causing her clients to receive inflated refunds. Moore also falsely claimed that certain taxpayers had business losses, based on nonexistent businesses, which further reduced the tax owed by the taxpayers.

In the course of preparing returns for clients, Moore used a Social Security Number that belonged to another individual without the individual's knowledge or approval. Moore also used the Social Security Number of another individual in an attempt to obtain a Virginia Alcohol and Beverage Control license for a restaurant in Hampton, Virginia.

Barbara Moore is scheduled to be sentenced on April 10, 2008. On the charge of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, she faces a maximum term of three years in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. On the aggravated identity theft charge, she faces a mandatory term of two years in prison, consecutive to any other term of imprisonment imposed, followed by one year of supervised release. The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. Assistant United States Attorney Brian Samuels prosecuted the case for the United States.

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