



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

February 20, 2004

DEFENDANT GUILTY OF FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS SENTENCED

Tampa, Florida - U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara, today sentenced NICHOLAS M. KARAPHILLIS, age 46, of Holiday, Florida, to ten (10) months' imprisonment and a \$3,000 fine for filing false tax returns. KARAPHILLIS will have to serve five (5) months of that sentence in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons, and the following five (5) months in home detention.

According to court documents, KARAPHILLIS pleaded guilty of this offense on November 14, 2003. The defendant admitted in his plea of guilty that he had filed false income tax returns on behalf of his business for tax year 1996, in which he did not declare all of the income which he earned from his ownership of the Plaza Chrysler Plymouth Dodge auto dealership. Specifically, he failed to disclose and pay income taxes on amounts of money which he received in the form of rebate checks from automobile manufacturers and advertisers. As a consequence of this conduct, for tax year 1996, KARAPHILLIS under-stated the income of the dealership by approximately \$135,375.000.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Judy K. Hunt in the General Crimes Section of the Tampa Division.