

U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern Shore Resident Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud Conspiracy

Baltimore, Maryland. United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced that Ginger Turner, age 35, of Grasonville, Maryland, plead guilty today before U.S. District Court Chief Judge Benson E. Legg to charges of conspiracy to defraud the government.

According to the statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Turner admitted that beginning in February, 2002, Turner, Loring White, age 41, of Stevensonville, Maryland and another Eastern Shore resident entered into a scheme whereby they prepared false, fictitious and fraudulent tax documents for numerous individuals in Maryland. These documents, including W-2 forms reflecting false, fictitious and fraudulent employment, income and withholdings information, were then used to file tax returns seeking refunds and earned income credit to which the filing individuals were not entitled. Neither the employers whose names appear on the W-2 forms, nor the tax preparation services which prepared and submitted the returns based upon the false W-2 forms, knew of the fraudulent W-2 forms.

Together, over a period of three tax years, these three individuals caused the United States to pay at least \$181,042 on false claims. An additional \$64,799 was claimed but not paid when the

Internal Revenue Service discovered the fraud.

Turner faces a maximum sentence of 10 years and is scheduled to be sentenced on June 9, 2004. White was recently sentenced to 37 months in prison for his part in the scheme.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation

Division and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tamera L. Fine.