



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

July 29, 2004

For Further Information

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**HEAD OF CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ENTERS GUILTY PLEA IN TAX CASE**

United States Attorney Gretchen C. F. Shappert, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI, Kevin B. Kendrick, and Charles E. Hunter, Chief, Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS, today announced that James L. Myers, of Charlotte, has pled guilty in U.S. District Court to one felony count of conspiracy to defraud the United States, and one felony count of false statements in connection with a tax return. The conspiracy charge incorporates the government's allegations of Myers' participation in a conspiracy to defraud the government by impairing the Internal Revenue Service's effort to collect revenue. The false statement count reflects his understatement of income by approximately \$8.2 million in 1998.

The guilty plea was officially accepted by United States Magistrate Judge David Keesler in Charlotte, North Carolina this morning. The plea agreement specifies that Myers failed to report over \$32 million in personal income between 1997 and 2000, leading to a tax loss to the government of approximately \$12.8 million. The plea agreement further specifies that Myers caused a company he operated, United Building

Contractors, Inc., to file false tax returns between 1997 and 1999. Those returns resulted in \$4.2 million in lost taxes to the government.

The federal criminal statutes to which Myers pled, Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1), provide for maximum sentences of five and three years in prison, respectively. Under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, an actual sentence is based upon a formula that takes into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, and the defendant's criminal history, if any. The sentencing Judge may impose a term of supervised release to follow any prison term. The sentencing Judge also has discretion to set any conditions upon which any term of supervised release would be based. Myers was released by the court today on a \$50,000 unsecured bond, which will continue until he is sentenced. A sentencing date has not been set by the court.

*U.S. v. Myers*

Docket Number 3:04CR180-MU

James L. Myers

DOB: 5/1/51

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