



U.S. Department of Justice

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December 14, 2004

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Althea Williams, aka Althea McKenzie, 49, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, was sentenced today by United States District Judge John Corbett O'Meara to serve 24 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release as a result of her June 26, 2004, guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of aiding and abetting in the filing of a false claim against the Internal Revenue Service announced U.S. Attorney Craig S. Morford. Mr. Morford was joined in the announcement by Acting Special Agent in Charge Sandi Carter, IRS, Criminal Investigation.

According to the second superseding information and court records, from 1995 to 1998, Ms. Williams assisted individuals in obtaining lease vehicles or mortgage loans by providing false financial information including false forms W-2, verification of employment, and income histories. The individuals leasing vehicles, which included a 1995 GMA Yukon, 1997 Range Rover, and a 1998 Ford Taurus, prepared credit applications in alias names, showing fictitious employment at different construction companies. Ms. Williams also supplied false financial information in helping Louella Canty purchased a home in Eastpointe, Michigan. Ms. Williams supplied false applications for over \$200,000 in leases and loans.

The second superseding information also charged that, in 1995, Ms. Williams knowingly

prepared numerous false and fictitious federal tax returns out of her Southfield, Michigan, office, which were filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The false tax refunds claimed totaled over \$62,000.

Mr. Morford commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their work in this investigation.