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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAUREL WOMAN INDICTED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Evelina C. Hodge, 41, of Laurel, Maryland for crimes committed in connection with submitting false personal income tax returns. The fifteen-count indictment charges Hodge with submitting false tax returns in her own name and in the names of friends and family members in order to obtain tax refunds totaling approximately \$85,000.

Ms. Hodge was arrested yesterday by agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division and released by a United States magistrate. The maximum penalty for each of fourteen of the counts is five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. The maximum penalty for the remaining count is three years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

No trial date has yet been set..

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division, and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph L. Evans.

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