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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KENSINGTON WOMAN INDICTED IN TAX REFUND FRAUD SCHEME

Greenbelt, Maryland - United States Attorney Thomas M. DiBiagio announced today that a federal grand jury has indicted Gina Marie Horton, age 33, of Kensington, Maryland today on 15 felony charges relating to an income tax refund fraud scheme.

The indictment alleges that between January and May 2001, Horton participated in a conspiracy to obtain the payment of fraudulent claims for income tax refunds from the Internal Revenue Service and caused the submission of false income tax returns, W-2 wage and tax statements and electronic tax filing declarations. The indictment cites 25 specific tax returns involving Horton and 24 other taxpayers which sought more than \$100,000 in fraudulent refunds. In addition to the conspiracy charge, the indictment also charges Horton with 14 counts of making, and aiding and abetting the making of, false claims for income tax refunds.

The conspiracy charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment; each false claims charge carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment. All counts carry a possible \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, \$100 special assessment and restitution.

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.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stuart A. Berman.