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#### FORMER SPRINGFIELD BAR OWNER SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY, FALSE PERSONAL INCOME TAX RETURNS AND WITNESS TAMPERING

SPRINGFIELD, MA – United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; Richard T. Morrison, Acting Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division; Douglas A. Bricker, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Boston Field Office; Warren T. Bamford, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation New England Field Division, and Peter C. Emerzian, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General, announced that MATTHEW CAMPAGNARI, 41, of 231 Pondview Drive, Springfield, Massachusetts, was sentenced late yesterday to 18 months imprisonment following his plea of guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, four counts of Filing False Personal Income Tax Returns and 2 counts of Witness Tampering.

CAMPAGNARI, a private real estate developer and bar owner, was charged in a sixteen-count Indictment, together with Anthony Ardolino, the former Chief of Staff for former Springfield Mayor Michael Albano, and his brother, Chester Ardolino, formerly a police officer for the Springfield Police Department.

At a previous change of plea hearing, CAMPAGNARI admitted that he conspired with co-defendants and others to under-report and conceal income and expenses of the bars they owned as well as filed false personal income tax returns in order to avoid paying federal taxes. As a result of their tax fraud conspiracy, the defendants collectively did not report approximately \$725,000 in additional income and employee wages and failed to pay approximately \$300,000 in additional federal taxes.

CAMPAGNARI also admitted that in the summer of 2004, he attempted to corruptly persuade a witness before the federal grand jury by asking the witness to falsely claim ownership of illegal poker machines CAMPAGNARI maintained at his bars and offered to pay the witness' legal fees and outstanding tax liabilities the witness owed from unreported income received from the machines. CAMPAGNARI also admitted that in the summer of 2002, he attempted to influence, prevent or delay the testimony of another witness in the federal grand jury investigation during a brief encounter in West Springfield. A third witness tampering charge was dismissed by the government as part of a plea agreement with CAMPAGNARI.

According to the Indictment, CAMPAGNARI owned several bars in the Springfield area. In the summer of 1997, CAMPAGNARI, Anthony Ardolino, and Chester Ardolino, decided to open a bar together, which later became known as The Civic Pub, located at 1248-1252 Main Street in Springfield. CAMPAGNARI admitted that he and his co-defendants, however, decided to keep the Ardolinos' ownership interests hidden due to their positions with the City of Springfield. CAMPAGNARI and the Ardolinos owned The Civic Pub until February 2000 when they sold the bar for \$150,000. CAMPAGNARI and the Ardolinos, however, reported the sale price as only \$40,000.

Shortly after the sale of The Civic Pub, CAMPAGNARI and the Ardolinos decided to open another bar together, which later became known as The Pour House, located at 280 Worthington Street in Springfield. CAMPAGNARI and Chester Ardolino owned the bar publicly, but in reality shared the ownership with three other individuals, including Anthony Ardolino. Anthony Ardolino's ownership