



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**INTERNAL REVENUE AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO SOLICITING  
A BRIBE IN CONNECTION WITH A TAXPAYER AUDIT**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that former Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") agent ROBERT ROSNER pleaded guilty today in Manhattan federal court to soliciting a bribe from a taxpayer. The plea took place before United States District Judge RICHARD J. HOLWELL. According to the felony Information charging ROSNER and statements made during the guilty plea proceeding:

From August 2004 until December 6, 2006, ROSNER served as an Internal Revenue Agent with the IRS. In that capacity, ROSNER was responsible for conducting taxpayer audits. On July 25, 2006, ROSNER initiated an audit of a small business based in New York, New York (the "Company"). On November 28, 2006, ROSNER contacted the head of the Company (the "Victim") to discuss the audit. ROSNER requested that the Victim treat ROSNER to lunch. During the lunch, ROSNER told the Victim that he would terminate the IRS audit of the Company if the Victim paid ROSNER \$5,000. The Victim agreed to pay the bribe.

On December 1, 2006, ROSNER submitted internal paperwork at the IRS recommending that no change be made to the Company's tax returns. This step effectively ended the IRS audit of the Company. Two days later, the Victim had a conversation with ROSNER, which, unbeknownst to Rosner, was recorded. The Victim told ROSNER that the Victim did not feel comfortable with the agreement to pay the bribe. ROSNER responded that he had already relied on the Victim's acceptance of the offer and taken steps within the IRS to conclude the audit. The Victim agreed to discuss the issue with ROSNER further the next day. Two days later, the Victim received a telephone call from ROSNER during which ROSNER stated that he had closed the audit of the Company.

ROSNER pleaded guilty today to one count of soliciting and agreeing to accept a thing of value for or because of the performance of an official act. The charge carries a maximum

penalty of 2 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross pecuniary gain or loss from the offense. ROSNER will be sentenced by Judge HOLWELL on October 17, 2008, at noon.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative work of the United States Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

This case is being prosecuted by the Public Corruption Unit of the United States Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney ALEXANDER J. WILLSCHER is in charge of the prosecution.

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