



U.S. Department of Justice

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Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Tracy Johnson

Detroit Woman Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the IRS

Tracy Johnson, of Detroit, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service, announced Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

According to court records, Johnson, along with Charles Bryson, of Detroit, conspired to defraud the IRS by providing false W-2s to several taxpayers to be used in the preparation of their federal income tax returns. They also provided transportation to legitimate tax preparation offices where returns were prepared using these false W-2s. They made arrangements for the taxpayers to pick up their refund checks and cash them out, while keeping a substantial portion of the refunds for themselves. This conspiracy caused over \$123,000 in false refund claims to be submitted to the IRS.

Bryson was previously sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for his role in this

conspiracy.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg stated, "Helping others to prepare fraudulent tax returns is a serious violation that cheats the government and harms the taxpayer as well. Such conduct will be pursued vigorously."

Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division said, "No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them. At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

Conspiracy to defraud the IRS carries a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. A sentencing date was set for June 19, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., in front of United States District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

Acting United States Attorney Berg thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Diane L. Marion.