



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United States Attorney Jeffrey Collins and Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Mark Kroczyński announced that on June 26, 2004, Althea Williams, 49, of Farmington Hills, Michigan, pleaded guilty to a second superseding information charging her with one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and one count of aiding and abetting in the filing of a false claim against the Internal Revenue Service. She is also currently under indictment for one count of money laundering and had another information filed charging her with another count of money laundering. The guilty plea was entered before United States District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara.

According to the second superseding information and court records, from 1995 to 1998 Ms. Williams assisted individuals in obtaining lease vehicles or mortgage loans by providing false financial information including false forms W-2, verification of employment, and income histories. The individuals leasing vehicles, which included a 1995 GMA Yukon, 1997 Range Rover, and a 1998 Ford Taurus, prepared credit applications in alias names, showing fictitious employment at different construction companies. Ms. Williams also supplied false financial information in helping Louella Canty purchase a home in Eastpointe, Michigan. Ms. Williams supplied false applications for over \$200,000 in leases and loans.

The second superseding information also charges that in 1995 Ms. Williams knowingly prepared numerous false and fictitious federal tax returns out of her Southfield, Michigan, office, which were filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The false tax refunds claimed totaled over \$62,000.

Ms. Williams pled guilty under an agreement with the government which states that if she abides by the terms of the plea agreement all other charges included in the indictment and first superseding information will be dismissed.

Conspiracy to commit mail fraud is in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. Aiding and abetting in the filing of a false claim against the Internal Revenue Service is in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 287. A count of conviction, on either charge, carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, each. The sentence will be imposed under the United States Sentencing Guidelines according to the nature of the offense and the criminal background, if any, of the defendants.

Mr. Collins commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their work in this investigation.