



# PRESS RELEASE

## Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Contact: Craig Casserly  
IRS – Criminal Investigation  
401 N. Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 744-3130  
Craig.casserly@ci.irs.gov  
CI Release #: CINFO-2014-14

### **LOCAL MAN TIED TO LARGE INCOME TAX REFUND SCAM PLEADS GUILTY**

*Five related defendants have been sentenced in this scheme*

CINCINNATI – Jimmy Hill, 35, of Cincinnati, Ohio pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to submit false claims for federal income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to one count of theft of government property. Hill faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, or twice the gain to Hill or the loss to the victims.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the guilty plea entered before Senior U.S. District Judge Sandra S. Beckwith.

According to court documents, between January 2011 and September 2012 Jimmy Hill, Ellis Maurice Scott, Bridgette Jones, Latasha Hampton, Marnay Love and Dione Howard, participated in a scheme to obtain false claims for income tax refunds from the IRS by electronically filing false 2010 and 2011 federal income tax returns claiming at least \$654,550 in refunds that they knew they were not entitled. Hill assisted in the cashing of at least 15 U.S. Treasury checks worth \$38,552.48.

Between June 2011 and January 2012, Hill took at least six checks from Ellis Scott and cashed the checks at a check cashing convenience store in Cincinnati, Ohio. Between February 2012 and May 2012, Hill took at least nine checks from Ellis Scott and cashed the checks through Hill's checking account at a US Bank branch in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Once the checks were cashed, Hill kept a significant portion of the income tax refund as a fee and gave the remaining money to Ellis Scott.

Hill admitted that none of the individuals listed on the U.S. Treasury checks ever came with him to have the checks cashed, and he admitted that he knew the U.S. Treasury checks were the proceeds of an income tax refund scheme, but was unaware that the false claims for income tax refunds were submitted using the stolen means of identification. Furthermore, Hill admitted to lying to special agent of IRS, Criminal Investigation about how he obtained the U.S. Treasury checks and who provided the check to him.

On December 2, 2013 Ellis Maurice Scott, 32, of Cincinnati, Ohio was sentenced to 102 months in prison, 3 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$477,490 in restitution to the IRS on one count of

committing conspiracy to submit false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and two counts of aggravated identity theft.

On September 10, 2013 Dione Howard, 33, of Cincinnati was sentenced to twelve months and one day in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$30,129 in restitution to the IRS for conspiring to submit false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and for the unlawful use of a means of identification.

On September 16, 2013 Bridgette Jones, 34, of Cincinnati was sentenced to 61 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$477,490 in restitution to the IRS for conspiring to submit false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and for committing aggravated identity theft.

On October 16, 2013, Latasha Hampton, 34, of Cincinnati was sentenced to ten months in prison, three years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay \$84,090 in restitution to the IRS for conspiring to submit false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and for forging endorsements on U.S. Treasury checks.

On October 21, 2013, Marnay Love, 34, of Cincinnati was ordered to pay \$84,090 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), \$17,350 in restitution to ACE Cash Express and serve eight months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for conspiring to defraud the IRS by filing false claims for federal income tax refunds.

"Individuals who commit refund fraud and steal from the U.S. government with this degree of trickery, dishonesty and deceit, deserve to be punished to the fullest extent of the law," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office.

These cases were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jessica W. Knight and were investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

# # #