



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Cincinnati Field Office
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FORMER VIDEO GAME STORE OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO INCOME TAX EVASION

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Lisa L. Harper, 49, formerly of Dublin, Ohio, pleaded guilty to one count of committing income tax evasion with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the 2008 income tax year. Harper faces a maximum of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

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 U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Preston Deavers.

According to court documents, between 2006 and 2010, Lisa Harper owned and operated Westpointe Video Games, a video game and entertainment software retail business located in the Westpointe Plaza Shopping Center in Columbus, Ohio.

For tax years 2006 through 2009, Harper filed individual income tax returns with the IRS. Each year, Harper included a form Schedule C, Profit or Loss From Business, for Westpointe Video Games. During this time, Harper willfully underreported her business's gross receipts.

Specifically, for the 2008 income tax year, Harper underreported the gross receipts of Westpointe Video Games by approximately \$232,945, which resulted in a tax loss to the IRS of approximately \$68,814.

In total, for the 2006 through 2009 income tax years, Harper underreported the gross receipts of Westpointe Video Games by approximately \$700,000, which resulted in a tax loss to the IRS of approximately \$199,950.

Harper used the unreported income to purchase, personal items such as, a house in Dublin for \$675,000, a Cadillac Escalade for \$66,980, and relatively expensive gifts for her family and friends.

Harper was released on bond pending her sentencing, for which a date has not yet been set.

"With the April 15 tax deadline looming, it is important for people to have confidence that when they pay their taxes, their neighbors and co-workers are doing the same," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "Tax evasion is not a victimless crime. Individuals who corruptly violate the income tax laws to further their business interests and intentionally evade paying their fair share of taxes undermine public confidence in our tax system and create an unfair businesses advantage compared to those that play by the rules."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel A. Brown and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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