



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
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ROCHELLE PARK RESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Trenton, N.J. –The owner of Bronx Express Liquors, a retail liquor store located in the Bronx, NY, pleaded guilty today to filing a false tax return.

Rafael Holguin, 51, a resident of Rochelle Park, N.J., entered his guilty plea in federal court before Judge Mary L. Cooper. Holguin pleaded guilty to a one count information that charges him with subscribing to a false corporate tax return for the 2008 calendar year. Sentencing is scheduled for May 12.

“As we begin this year’s tax filing season, this plea should serve as a reminder to the taxpaying public that IRS-Criminal Investigation is diligent when it comes to enforcing the laws directed at those who attempt to defraud our nation’s tax system,” stated Shantelle P. Kitchen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “IRS-Criminal Investigation, together with the U.S. Attorney’s office, will investigate and prosecute those who violate our tax system.”

At his plea hearing and according to court documents:

Holguin was the sole owner of Bronx Express Liquors. Holguin deposited some cash payments received from customers of the liquor store into his personal bank account rather than the business bank accounts of Bronx Express Liquors. For the 2008 calendar year, Holguin signed and filed a false corporate tax return on behalf of Bronx Express Liquors. This return was false in that Holguin failed to include approximately \$391,831 of taxable income.

In addition, Holguin admitted that he failed to report approximately \$513,744 of additional taxable income on the corporate tax returns for 2007 and 2009. Holguin's intentional failure to report the additional taxable income for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 resulted in an approximate tax loss to the government of \$388,876.

The charge of subscribing to a fraudulent tax return carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of three years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

The investigation was conducted by IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Shantelle P. Kitchen and the U.S. Attorney's Office, under the direction of U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dara Aquila Govan.

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Defense counsel: Edmund Mendrala, Esq.