



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
Newark Field Office  
*Acting Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen*

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## **DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING U.S. TREASURY CHECKS**

**Newark, N.J.** – Raul Diaz pleaded guilty in federal court before U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler to a one count information that charges him with theft of government property, specifically United States Treasury checks. Sentencing is scheduled for December 1, 2014.

“Honest and law abiding citizens are fed up with the likes of those who use deceit and fraud to line their pockets with other people’s money,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “Those individuals who engage in this type of financial fraud should know they will not go undetected and will be held accountable for their actions.”

At his plea hearing and according to court documents:

Diaz admitted that prior to December, 2012, he obtained approximately 17 United States Treasury checks in and around Middlesex County, N.J., totaling approximately \$113,831.99. Diaz knew that the majority of the checks he obtained were generated by filing false and fraudulent income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service in order to obtain refunds to which the named payees were not entitled to receive. Diaz also knew that the remaining United States Treasury checks that he obtained were stolen from individuals who had filed legitimate tax returns. Diaz deposited approximately 17 United States Treasury checks totaling approximately \$113,831.99 into a JP Morgan Chase and Co. bank account in the name of Raul Garcia which he controlled. Subsequent to depositing the checks, Diaz withdrew the money from the bank account.

The charge of theft of government property carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of ten 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 Acting Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen 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 J. Jamari Buxton.

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