



U.S. Department of Justice

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Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: John Potter

Cement City Pub Owner Pleads Guilty to Tax Charge

John Potter, 74, of Cement City, Michigan, owner of Potters Pub in Jackson, Michigan, pleaded guilty to filing a false tax return, signed under penalties of perjury, with the Internal Revenue Service, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg. This guilty plea was the result of a January 2009 indictment charging him with four counts of filing false personal and corporate income tax returns as well as four counts of assisting in the preparation of false personal and corporate income tax returns.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

According to the court records, during the 2002 through 2005 tax years, Potter filed, with the Internal Revenue Service, U. S. Corporate Income Tax Returns for Potters Pub reporting gross receipts of approximately \$1.1 million, knowing that his true gross receipts were approximately \$3.2 million. Potter also knowingly filed personal tax returns for the same years with the IRS, reporting approximately \$174,000 as his taxable income, when he knew

that his true income was over \$2.2 million.

In December 2006, IRS Criminal Investigation special agents executed a search warrant at Potters Pub, seizing various business books and records.

"Our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens with our shared responsibility to pay taxes. Prosecution of individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system" said U.S. Attorney Berg.

"The law is crystal clear; people must file accurate returns and pay their taxes," said Special Agent-in-Charge Aouate. "IRS Criminal Investigation will vigorously investigate those individuals who knowingly and willfully evade their tax obligations."

A sentencing date was set for January 20, 2010, at 2:00 pm before United States District Court Judge Paul D. Borman.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Louis P. Gabel.