

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

Further inquiries: (716)843-5814

138 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14202

June 8, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. VICTOR PHILLIPS

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Victor Phillips, of North Tonawanda, New York, pled guilty before Honorable William M. Skretny, United States District Judge to a felony information, charging him with filing a false and fraudulent 2001 individual income tax return (Form 1040), in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1), carrying a maximum penalty of three (3) years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce, who handled this case, stated that, based on investigation performed by the Internal Revenue Service, which demonstrated that the defendant spent well in excess of his visible income, the defendant had taxable income of over \$119,000 in 2001, while reporting only about \$6,100 in income on the return he filed for 2001.

The plea grew out of an investigation on the part of the Internal Revenue Service under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Koons, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter J. Ahearn.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 7, 2004, at 9:00 a.m. in front of Honorable William M. Skretny, United States District Judge.

* * *