



Press Releases

Guilty Plea -- David Wortman

October 16, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On October 15, 2007, David Wortman, 48, of Grand Island, Nebraska, waived indictment before Magistrate Judge David Piester in United States District Court in Lincoln, Nebraska, and pled guilty to an information charging felony offenses of harboring illegal aliens, structuring monetary transactions to avoid cash transaction reporting requirements, and agreed to restitution and forfeiture totaling \$437,632. Sentencing was scheduled for January 22, 2008.

The plea culminated a joint investigation by ICE, IRS-CID, and the Department of Labor, of Mr. Wortman and Cloudburst Underground Sprinkler Systems, a Grand Island business owned and operated by Mr. Wortman. Cloudburst installs sprinkler systems and performs other lawn maintenance and snow removal services. Mr. Wortman has admitted hiring undocumented workers who were citizens of other countries unlawfully present in the United States, without obtaining from them identification or any proof of employability. He admitted hiring at least 26 such individuals between October 1, 2002, and September 6, 2007. He further admitted cashing customer checks written to Cloudburst in such a way as to avoid federal cash transaction reporting requirements which pertain to all financial transactions involving at least \$10,000 in cash. On 45 separate and consecutive occasions between September 15, 2005, and May 31, 2007, he cashed groups of customer checks, ranging in number from 22 checks to 108 checks, in amounts always totaling more than \$9,000 but never more than \$10,000. These 45 structured financial transactions totaled \$437,632.

Cloudburst was under investigation by the United States Department of Labor for failing to pay overtime to employees, as required by federal law. Under the terms of the plea agreement, Mr. Wortman agreed to pay \$200,903 to the Department of Labor so that it may reimburse current and former Cloudburst employees for unpaid overtime. Any current or former Cloudburst employee who feels they are entitled to such reimbursement should contact the U.S. Department of Labor.

Other provisions of the plea agreement call for Mr. Wortman to forfeit to the United States \$236,729, which represents the balance of the money involved in the structured financial transactions. Mr. Wortman has agreed he will be sentenced to a term of 30 months imprisonment and has agreed to file amended income tax returns for both himself and Cloudburst for 2005 and 2006.

Name of Defendant: David Wortman

AKA:

Age: 48

City of residence: Grand Island, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Count 1 Harboring Illegal Aliens: 0-10 years imprisonment, up to a \$250,000.00 fine or both. Count 2 Structuring financial transactions: same penalty

Count 3 Forfeiture of \$236,728.68 in United States currency