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**MONEY LAUNDERING RESULTS IN 42 MONTH SENTENCE FOR MAN
FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY WILMINGTON, DELAWARE CAR DEALER**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, Francis Turner, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and James M. Kasson, Special Agent In Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, announced that Jimmy Jan Chan today received a sentence of three and one half (3 1/2) years imprisonment as a result of his guilty plea to money laundering and obstruction of justice charges.

Chief Judge Sue L. Robinson, United States District Court for the District of Delaware, sentenced Chan, age 46, for his role in a money laundering conspiracy involving Elite Auto, Inc. d/b/a/ 1800 Motorcars, a now-defunct Delaware car dealership formerly located on Governor Printz Boulevard in Wilmington, Delaware. On February 22, 2007, Chief Judge Robinson sentenced Chan's co-conspirator, Christopher Malatesta, age 35, to three (3) years imprisonment.

Both Chan and Malatesta pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to launder money and two counts of money laundering. Chan also pled guilty to one count of obstruction of justice. This charge was based upon Chan's decision to inform a target of the existence of the government's investigation.

According to their plea agreements, both Chan and Malatesta sold automobiles through 1800 Motorcars. During 2001 and 2002, Chan and Malatesta sold an undercover law enforcement officer two luxury automobiles – a 1996 Lexus ES 300 and a 1997 Jaguar XJ8. The undercover officer had stated that the cash to fund these transactions was provided by a drug dealer. Chan and Malatesta created false paperwork to hide the actual amount of cash paid for the cars, and to conceal the identity of the purchaser. The undercover officer paid a total of \$44,500 in cash for the two cars during the course of the investigation.

Malatesta testified at the January 2005, trial of Andre Huggins, a Bear, Delaware man convicted of various drug and money laundering charges and sentenced to twenty (20) years imprisonment in 2006. Huggins was convicted of laundering proceeds of drug sales through the purchase of a 2001 GMC Denali from 1800 Motorcars.

U.S. Attorney Connolly stated that: “These cases demonstrate our commitment to investigate and prosecute individuals who provide a means for drug dealers to spend their cash.”

“Money laundering is tax evasion in progress,” said Francis Turner, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation.

These cases were investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, with assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Delaware State Police, Delaware Department of Probation and Parole, Newark Police Department, Dover Police Department, Smyrna Police Department, and the Delmar Police Department.

For further information, please call U.S. Attorney Colm F. Connolly.

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