

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 4, 2007

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that James Estrella, a former San Diego Police Department officer, was sentenced today in United States District Court in San Diego by United States District Judge Roger T. Benitez to serve 21 months in home confinement, based on Estrella's conviction for attempted tax evasion. Judge Benitez also ordered that Estrella serve a three-year term of probation following his release from his period of confinement, pay \$220,000 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service, and pay a special assessment of \$100.

According to court records, Estrella admitted in his guilty plea that he failed to file income tax returns for the calendar years 2001 through 2003, and failed to pay federal income taxes totaling more than \$63,000.00 for those three years. Estrella had earned income for those years both as a San Diego Police Department officer and as a seller of merchandise in auctions on the internet through eBay. Estrella also acknowledged that he knowingly sold stolen property on his eBay site during the years 2001 through 2003. Estrella is currently on state probation after having pled guilty on December 2, 2004, in San Diego Superior

Court to four felony counts of receiving stolen property. Estrella remains on five years' probation in that case.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 06 cr1289 BEN

James Estrella

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201 (Attempted Tax Evasion)

INVESTIGATING AGENCY

Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation