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News Release

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Dentist sentenced for tax evasion

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court in Duluth, a Minnesota dentist was sentenced for intentionally diverting business receipts to personal bank accounts in order to reduce his reported income and thus evade paying taxes on that income. On one count of willful tax evasion, United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank sentenced Michael James Bussa to four years of probation, with conditions, including 30 days in a halfway house with work release, followed by six months of home detention with electronic monitoring. In addition, Bussa was ordered to serve 2,000 hours of community service. In addition, Bussa was ordered to pay a \$30,000 fine and repay his unpaid taxes, penalties, and interest. Bussa was charged on October 12, 2010, and pleaded guilty on November 29, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Bussa admitted that for tax years 2003-2005, he failed to pay \$76,695 in federal income taxes and deposited business income in personal bank accounts for the purpose of hiding that income. In addition, Bussa failed to report much of the income he received in the form of cash and from uncovered services. Bussa also lied to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), saying he never deposited business receipts in his personal bank accounts. He, along with others, managed the books and records of the business, which he provided to an outside accountant for final preparation.

This case was the result of an investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicole A. Engisch.

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Per U.S. Department of Justice policy, the U.S. Attorney's Office is not allowed to provide the age and city of residence for defendants charged in criminal tax cases.

