



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

December 29, 2011

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian, announced today that ANTHANASIOS TOM LAZAROS, 57, of Endwell, New York, pled guilty on December 21, 2011, to a one-count Information charging him with the felony of Willfully Aiding and Assisting in the Filing of a False Tax Return, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2). LAZAROS entered his guilty plea in Federal Court in Binghamton, New York before Senior United States District Court Judge Thomas J. McAvoy. The Information charged LAZAROS with causing a false IRS Form 941 Employer's Quarterly Tax Return to be filed in the second quarter of 2006, by Nasia LLC, d/b/a Crossroads Diner.

LAZAROS has been in the restaurant business in the Binghamton, New York area for more than 20 years. He has owned and/or operated, either himself or through other persons, a number of area restaurants. These include The Ritz Restaurant in Binghamton, NY; Take a Break Restaurant in Vestal, NY; the Owego Diner, a/k/a Route 96 Restaurant in Owego, NY; Nasia LLC, d/b/a Crossroads Diner, in Endwell, NY; and the Plaza Diner in Vestal, NY.

Employers are legally required to file Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Form 941 Quarterly Tax Returns each quarter, which contain information concerning wages paid to employees. LAZAROS' wife was the listed owner for Nasia LLC in 2006 and 2007, but was the owner in name

only. LAZAROS ran the restaurant and made all decisions relating to its operation. Nasia LLC, d/b/a the Crossroads Diner, was located at 3000 E. Main Street, Endwell New York, 13760. LAZAROS admitted by his plea that he caused false IRS 941 Quarterly Tax Returns to be filed for Nasia LLC, d/b/a Crossroads Diner, for all four quarters of 2006, and the first two quarters of 2007.

LAZAROS employed a Certified Public Accountant (“CPA”) since the late 1990s to prepare the Form 941 Employer’s Quarterly Federal Tax Returns in connection with the businesses he has owned and/or operated since that time. In 2006, and the first two quarters of 2007, the CPA prepared the Form 941 tax returns for Nasia LLC, d/b/a Crossroads Diner.

LAZAROS admitted by his plea that he altered the Nasia LLC, d/b/a Crossroads Diner, Form 941 Employer’s Quarterly Tax Returns for the tax year 2006, and the first two quarters of the 2007 tax year, which had been provided to him by his CPA. LAZAROS substituted the information provided to him by his CPA, which was based upon actual payroll data, with information contained in returns filed in previous years for another restaurant that did less business. LAZAROS then either signed his wife’s name on the return, or had his wife sign the returns. The altered returns were then filed with the IRS in Andover, Massachusetts. LAZAROS acknowledged by his plea that the current tax liability for the years in question is \$65,174.54.

LAZAROS faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison with a fine of up to \$250,000 as a result of his guilty plea. Sentencing is scheduled for April 20, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in federal court in Binghamton. Judge McAvoy released LAZAROS on his own recognizance pending sentencing.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation Division, Syracuse Office, under the direction of Charles R. Pine, Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Office. The case is being prosecuted out of the Binghamton Office by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin P. Dooley. Additional inquiries can be directed to AUSA Dooley at (607) 773-2887.