Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. Western District of New York

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CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS PHONE: (716) 843-5817

FAX: (716) 551-3051

FORMER NIGHTCLUB OWNERS PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL TAX VIOLATIONS

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Vincent Giamo and his wife Mary Giamo, both of Orchard Park, N.Y., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge William Skretny to felony tax violations. Vincent Giamo pleaded guilty to tax evasion, which carries a maximum term of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Mary Giamo pleaded guilty to aiding or assisting in the preparation of a false tax return which carries a maximum term of three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael DiGiacomo, who is handling the case, stated that the defendants owned and operated a bar business, known as "Utopia" located at 228 Franklin Street. Between 2002 and 2005, Vincent Giamo maintained two sets of books for "Utopia." One set of books was used for the preparing and filing of the corporate tax returns and the other set of books reflected the true receipts and expenses for the business. The total amount of tax loss associated with the evasion is approximately \$1,225,651. Mary Giamo, as an officer of the corporation, aided her husband Vincent Giamo in filing a false return for the taxable years 2004 and 2005. As a result the tax loss for those years was approximately \$123,454.

The pleas are the culmination of an investigation on the part of the Criminal Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Toni Weirauch.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 29, 2012 at 9:00 a.m., in Buffalo, N.Y., in front of Judge Skretny.