

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Hon. Leda Dunn Wettre  
v. : Mag. No. 18-8004  
DEON OWENSBY :  
: **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, John McBride, being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

**SEE ATTACHMENT A**

I further state that I am a Special Agent with the United States Department of the Treasury, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (“TIGTA”), and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

**SEE ATTACHMENT B**

continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

John McBride, Special Agent  
United States Department of the Treasury  
Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,  
January 5, 2018 at Newark, New Jersey -

HONORABLE LEDA DUNN WETTRE  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Signature of Judicial Officer

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Count One**

**(Impersonation of a Federal Officer or Employee)**

From on or about August 31, 2015 to on or about April 13, 2017, in Middlesex and Essex Counties, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

DEON OWENSBY

did knowingly and intentionally falsely assume and pretend to be an officer and employee acting under the authority of the United States and any department, agency, and officer thereof, and in such assumed and pretended character did act as such, that is, he falsely stated that he was a federal agent or employee of the Internal Revenue Service and presented a purported federal employee identification card or Internal Revenue Service Pocket Commission to certain state and local law enforcement officers during traffic stops.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 912.

**Count Two**

**(Possession of Official Badge, Identification Card, Other Insignia)**

From on or about April 28, 2015 to on or about April 13, 2017, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

DEON OWENSBY

did knowingly possess a badge, identification card, and other insignia, of the design prescribed by the head of a department or agency of the United States for use by any officer and employee thereof, or any colorable imitation thereof, that is, an Internal Revenue Service Pocket Commission or other employee identification card of a federal agency, except as authorized under regulations made pursuant to law.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 701.

## ATTACHMENT B

I, John McBride, a Special Agent with the Inspector General for Tax Administration of the United States Department of Treasury, having personally participated in an investigation of the conduct of defendant DEON OWENSBY, and having spoken with other law enforcement officers and individuals, have knowledge of the following facts. Because this Complaint is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. Where the content of documents and the actions, statements, and conversations of individuals are recounted herein, they are recounted in substance and in part, except where otherwise indicated.

1. Defendant DEON OWENSBY (“defendant OWENSBY”) was employed by the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) as an Attorney from on or about March 15, 2010 to on or about April 23, 2015. Defendant OWENSBY worked at the IRS Office in Trenton, New Jersey.

2. The IRS was an agency of the United States within the Department of Treasury, responsible for administering and enforcing the tax laws of the United States.

3. During defendant OWENSBY’s employment at the IRS, the IRS provided him with an IRS Pocket Commission. The IRS Pocket Commission is an identification badge issued to IRS employees as a means of identifying themselves to the public when performing their official duties. The upper portion of the IRS Pocket Commission indicates: “United States Treasury Department” and “Internal Revenue Service” on the top line and contains the seal of the IRS on the bottom right corner. It also contains the name and title of the employee. The bottom portion of the IRS Pocket Commission contains the “Date Issued,” “Expiration Date,” a description of the authority of the employee, the employee’s photograph and signature, and the signature of the authorizing officer. The name and title on defendant OWENSBY’s IRS Pocket Commission was “Deon Owensby” and “Attorney,” respectively. The Date Issued and Expiration Date on defendant OWENSBY’s IRS Pocket Commission were March 15, 2010, and March 15, 2015, respectively.

4. Upon his separation from employment with the IRS, defendant OWENSBY was obligated to return all property belonging to the IRS, including the IRS Pocket Commission, pursuant to the IRS Internal Revenue Manual and IRS policy. On or about April 28, 2015, as part of the process for returning all property, including identification and building access cards, to the IRS, defendant OWENSBY met with his former supervisor in the lobby of the IRS office located in Trenton, New Jersey, to review the items to be returned to the IRS. Defendant OWENSBY indicated that he did not have his Pocket Commission because it had been stolen. Consequently, defendant OWENSBY did not return his Pocket Commission to the IRS upon his separation from employment with the IRS.

5. On or about August 31, 2015, at approximately 3:22 p.m., a trooper from the New Jersey State Police conducted a traffic stop of defendant OWENSBY around exit/entrance 9 of the New Jersey Turnpike after observing defendant OWENSBY commit a traffic infraction. The traffic stop was recorded by a dashboard camera on the trooper's vehicle. During the traffic stop, defendant OWENSBY stated his name and stated that he was a federal agent, as captured on the video recording of the traffic stop. Defendant OWENSBY also displayed a purported federal employee identification card to the officer conducting the traffic stop to assert that he was a federal agent.

6. On or about December 4, 2016, at approximately 1:56 a.m., a trooper from the New Jersey State Police conducted a traffic stop of defendant OWENSBY around exit/entrance 10 of the New Jersey State Turnpike after observing defendant OWENSBY commit a traffic infraction. The traffic stop was recorded by a dashboard camera on the trooper's vehicle. During the traffic stop, defendant OWENSBY told the officer, in substance, that he was working for the IRS and was returning to his office, as captured on the video recording of the traffic stop. During the traffic stop, defendant OWENSBY also displayed a purported federal employee identification card to support his assertion concerning his employment with the IRS.

7. On or about April 13, 2017, at approximately 9:43 p.m., an officer from the Millburn Police Department conducted a traffic stop of defendant OWENSBY around Ridgewood Road at Beech Terrace in Millburn, New Jersey, after observing defendant OWENSBY commit traffic infractions, including making turns without signaling and swerving in the street. The traffic stop was recorded by a dashboard camera on the officer's vehicle, which was behind defendant OWENSBY's vehicle.

8. During the traffic stop, defendant OWENSBY provided his name to the officer and stated, in substance, that he was a federal agent, namely, a tax attorney for the IRS, as captured on the video recording of the traffic stop. When defendant OWENSBY made such assertion, he also displayed an IRS Pocket Commission to the officer who conducted the traffic stop. When the officer pointed out the expiration date of March 15, 2015 on the Pocket Commission, defendant OWENSBY falsely told the officer, in substance, that the Pocket Commission was still valid.