



***United States Attorney
District of New Jersey***

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September 17, 2010

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**CITY OF NEWARK COMMUNICATIONS CLERK
PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX EVASION**

NEWARK, N.J. – A communications officer with the Newark Police Department admitted today that she evaded income taxes by maintaining a fraudulent IRS Form W-4 with the city and failing to file an individual tax return, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Leslie Wofford, 47, of Hillside, N.J., pleaded guilty to evading the assessment and payment of income tax by maintaining a fraudulent IRS Form W-4 with her employer and failing to file a U.S. individual income tax return with the IRS. Wofford entered her guilty plea before United States District Judge Susan D. Wigenton in Newark federal court.

According to the Information to which Wofford pleaded guilty, other documents filed in this case, and statements made in court:

Wofford, a 22-year veteran of the City of Newark Police Department, filed a W-4 with her employer, the City of Newark, in 2001 – falsely claiming 99 exemptions from federal income tax withholding. Wofford admitted that she filed the fraudulent form so that no federal income tax would be withheld from her City of Newark paycheck and that she maintained the form on file with the city through November 2007.

In 2004, 2005, and 2006 Wofford received wages from the City of Newark in the amount of approximately \$45,065, \$48,099, and \$54,426, respectively, but failed to pay any federal income tax for those calendar years.

In November 2007, the City of Newark was directed by the IRS to nullify Wofford's false claim of 99 exemptions and to begin withholding from her paycheck. In March 2008, Wofford filed a second fraudulent W-4 with the City of Newark which falsely claimed the exemptions. In 2007, Wofford received wages from the City of Newark in the amount of approximately \$55,343 and failed to pay any federal income tax for that calendar year.

Wofford admitted that she received wages from the City of Newark in the amount of approximately \$65,846 in 2008 and failed to pay any federal income tax for that calendar year.

The count to which Wofford pleaded guilty carries a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. She was released on a \$100,000 bond pending sentencing, scheduled for January 4, 2011.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of IRS – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff, with the investigation leading to today’s guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sandra L. Moser of the United States Attorney’s Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Defense counsel: Daryl S. Pennington, Esq., Newark, N.J.