



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### Richmond Man Facing Felony Tax Charges

**Saint Paul** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Stearns County Attorney's Office recently charged Anthony Thelen, 40, of Richmond, with 24 felony tax crimes.

Thelen is charged with five counts of filing fraudulent returns, five counts of failing to pay sales and alcohol taxes, five counts of failing to file withholding returns, five counts of failing to pay withholding taxes and four counts of failing to file income taxes for tax years 2005 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Thelen operates Goatropers Bar and Grill in Farming Township. Auditors with the Minnesota Department of Revenue found that the defendant quit filing income tax returns after 2004 and failed to register any employees with the department since then.

The complaint also states Goatropers reported retail alcoholic beverage sales lower than the cost of their wholesale alcoholic beverage purchases.

In 2005, Goatropers purchased more than \$67,000 in wholesale alcoholic beverages. However, the business reported retail alcoholic beverage sales of \$45,000. In 2006, they purchased more than \$63,000 in wholesale alcoholic beverages but reported retail alcoholic beverage sales of \$49,000. In 2007, Goatropers purchased more than \$62,000 in wholesale alcoholic beverages but reported alcoholic beverage sales of only \$44,000. In 2008, the business purchased more than \$63,000 in wholesale alcoholic beverages but reported retail alcoholic beverage sales of \$42,000. In 2009, Goatropers purchased more than \$63,000 in wholesale alcoholic beverages but reported retail alcoholic beverage sales of \$40,000.

The complaint also states the businesses employees were paid mostly in cash or checks and no withholding tax was paid to the department. In addition, no W-2's were issued and no withholding taxes were submitted for employees for tax years 2005-2009.

Bank records show Thelen's annual deposits to be more than \$300,000 per year between 2003 and 2009.

Thelen appeared in court earlier this month and was released on \$10,000 cash bail. His next court appearance is scheduled for August 5, 2011.

Each felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$10,000 fine, or both.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects an individual or business is violating tax laws, at (651) 297-5195 or 1-800-657-3500. Tipsters may

remain anonymous and can also email the department at [tax.fraud@state.mn.us](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). Last year, citizen tips resulted in 75 percent of the department's criminal case referrals.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue is dedicated to enforcing tax laws, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe. It takes progressively stricter measures against taxpayers who demonstrate they will not voluntarily meet their obligations.

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