

News Release

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Minneapolis business owner charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Jamal Hashi, of Minneapolis, with a tax-related felony.

Hashi is charged with one count of making retail sales after the business’ sales tax permit was revoked.

According to the criminal complaint, Hashi is the owner of Matan Enterprises LLC, doing business as Safari Express, a restaurant in Minneapolis.

The complaint states Hashi owed more than \$29,000 in delinquent sales tax, penalty and interest, when the restaurants’ sales tax permit was revoked. Hashi was told his permit was revoked and he had to stop making retail sales but he continued to do so.

The felony charge carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Although most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes enforcement action against noncompliant taxpayers to ensure tax laws are fairly administered.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects a person or business is violating tax laws. That number is 651-297-5195 or 1-800-657-3500 (toll free). Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. In 2014, 87 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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