



News Release

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Hugo man charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Washington County Attorney’s Office recently charged Anthony William Bronk of Hugo with several tax-related felonies.

Mr. Bronk was charged with four counts of failing to pay income tax and four counts of filing a false tax return. He was also charged with five counts of theft by swindle and one count of offering forged checks.

The complaint states that Mr. Bronk misappropriated funds while working as treasurer of the Minnesota State Fire Department Association (MSFDA). It also states that Mr. Bronk failed to pay tax on all of his income from 2011 through 2014, including the illegal income he swindled from the MSFDA. The complaint further alleges that Mr. Bronk knowingly filed false income tax returns for the 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 tax years. According to the criminal complaint, Mr. Bronk owes more than \$15,000 in income tax, penalties, and interest.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. 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 that tax laws are administered fairly.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects that a person or business is violating Minnesota tax laws. Local callers may dial 651-297-5195 or call toll-free by dialing 1-800-657-3500. Tips can also be submitted to the department by email at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous. In 2014, 87 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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