

News Release

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Contact: Ryan Brown

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ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney's Office recently charged Giatou Yang, of St. Paul, with 12 tax-related felonies.

Mr. Yang is charged with five counts of filing fraudulent income tax returns, four counts of filing fraudulent property tax returns, two counts of failing to file income tax returns, and one count of aiding and abetting the filing of a fraudulent tax return.

According to the complaint, Mr. Yang—who has also gone by the names Pao Yang and John Woo—formed a tax preparation company in January 2011. Mr. Yang allegedly failed to file tax returns for this business for the 2011 and 2012 tax years. The complaint also states that Mr. Yang failed to report his income from this business for tax years 2011 through 2015.

Mr. Yang, according to the complaint, also underreported the income from his transportation services businesses for tax years 2013, 2014 and 2015. By not reporting all of his income accurately, Mr. Yang willfully filed fraudulent income tax returns for tax years 2011 through 2015, according to the complaint.

The complaint alleges that Mr. Yang filed fraudulent property tax returns for tax years 2011 through 2014 by underreporting his income in order to qualify to receive property tax refunds for those years.

The complaint further states that Mr. Yang filed a fraudulent 2014 income tax return for his wife, Pa Nhia Her, knowingly assigning her a false filing status and underreporting her income to lower her tax liability by more than \$1,100.

According to the complaint, Mr. Yang owes more than \$23,000 in income taxes, 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.

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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.

Many of the department's criminal case referrals come from citizen tips. 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.

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