



## News Release

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### **Blaine man charged with multiple tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Anoka County Attorney’s Office recently charged Joshua Richard Jarosiewicz with seven tax-related felonies. Mr. Jarosiewicz, of Blaine, is charged with three counts of failing to file sales tax returns, three counts of failing to pay sales tax, and one count of making retail sales after revocation of his sales tax permit.

According to the complaint, Mr. Jarosiewicz owned and operated a take-out and delivery restaurant, Hot Wok, from 2010 through 2013, but failed to file sales tax returns or pay sales tax for the business. After a department audit, Mr. Jarosiewicz allegedly changed the name of his business and obtained another sales tax permit, but continued to operate the same restaurant in the same location. The complaint states that between March 2014 and October 2014, Mr. Jarosiewicz again failed to file sales tax returns or pay sales tax for his business. After the department levied his bank accounts in October 2014 to recover some of the unpaid taxes, Mr. Jarosiewicz allegedly changed the name of his business once again—this time to Mikels Wok—and placed his girlfriend’s name on the business filings for the new restaurant.

The complaint alleges that Mikels Wok failed to file sales tax returns and failed to remit sales tax in 2014, 2015, and 2016, despite making retail sales and collecting state sales tax from customers. The department revoked the businesses’ sales tax permits in June 2015. Surveillance of the business, as well as interviews with employees and the property owners, indicated that Mr. Jarosiewicz was the owner and manager of Mikels Wok and that the business continued operating and making retail sales after the revocation of its sales tax permit. In an interview with investigators outlined in the complaint, Mr. Jarosiewicz admitted that he was running Mikels Wok, despite his name not being on the sales tax permit, and that he was responsible for filing sales tax returns and paying sales tax for the business. The department estimates that Mr. Jarosiewicz owes the state over \$66,000 in sales tax, according to the complaint.

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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 department 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. There is 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](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

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