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Tri-Cities Homebuilder Charged with Tax Fraud

KENNEWICK, WA – Aug. 11, 2011 – A Tri-Cities homebuilder who kept building homes after his construction business closed has been charged with felony theft of sales tax and filing false state tax returns.

Vasily Petrovich Sinyuk, doing business as Sinyuk Construction LLC and later as Tri-Cities Dream Homes, is accused of stealing sales tax he collected on the construction of a custom home and of filing four tax returns falsely claiming his company did no business.

The charges were brought in Benton County Superior Court by the Economic Crime Unit of the State Attorney General’s Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

According to charging papers, Sinyuk, 28, closed Sinyuk Construction LLC in 2009 after running into tax troubles with the Department, but later built a home in Richland under the guise of VNS Construction, his brother’s construction business. Sinyuk took out the building permit and payments were made to Sinyuk Construction.

In 2010, the Department assessed Sinyuk Construction \$419,165 in taxes, penalties and interest for failing to pay taxes. Tax warrants on those assessments are still outstanding. Sinyuk Construction currently is the largest delinquent taxpayer in Eastern Washington.

The maximum penalty for theft of sales tax is 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. The maximum penalty for filing false tax returns is five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

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