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Tri-Cities Homebuilder Pleads Guilty to Filing False Tax Return

Kennewick, WA – April 4, 2012 – A Tri-Cities homebuilder who kept building homes after his construction business closed pled guilty today to filing a false state tax return.

Vasily Petrovich Sinyuk, 29, paid \$13,365 in full restitution to cover taxes, penalties and interest associated with building a custom home but filing a return stating he did no business.

Benton County Superior Court Judge Craig Matheson sentenced Sinyuk to 30 days in jail with eligibility for work release. The judge also ordered him to pay \$600 in additional fines and court costs.

“What we seek through these and other prosecutions is to ensure that all businesses operate by the same rules,” Revenue Director Brad Flaherty said. “Nobody should be able to undercut honest businesses by operating under the table.”

Sinyuk operated Sinyuk Construction LLC doing business as Tri Cities Dream Homes but closed that business in 2009 after running into tax troubles with the Department. He 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.

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.

In 2010, the Department filed civil tax warrants for tax, penalties and interest against Sinyuk Construction LLC in the amount of \$419,165 for liability incurred prior to the criminal case. Those warrants are still outstanding.

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