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## **Tax Man Pleads Guilty and Faces 2 ½ to 5 Years**

*Defendant Used Multiple Social Security Numbers to Steal \$4,530 in New York State Tax Refunds*



**ALBANY, NY-** District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that STEVEN AUGUSTINE, aka KAVIN SANTOS 26, formerly of Queens County, New York pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony, before the Honorable Judge Peter A. Lynch this morning in Albany County Court.

In accordance with the plea agreement reached in court today, AUGUSTINE faces 2 ½ to 5 years in State Prison, to run consecutive to the sentence that he is currently serving in the Department of Corrections. AUGUSTINE must also pay \$4,530.00 in restitution.

Between June 1, 2012 and June 1, 2013, the defendant, who was an inmate at the New York Department of Corrections, submitted 441 separate NYC-210 forms in an attempt to claim \$36,652.50 in New York City school tax credits in the form of a refund for the 2008-2011 tax years.

The defendant received \$4,530.00 in these tax refunds that were deposited into his commissary account at the correctional facility.

The matter was investigated by the New York State Department of Corrections and the Criminal Investigation Division of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

“It is difficult to fathom that a defendant behind bars could still continue to commit crimes, but this is a prime example of how industrious individuals continue to apply their trade,” commented DA Soares. “These tax credits were designed to provide a bit of relief for residents of New York City, not for residents of Rikers Island.”

AUGUSTINE remains in the custody of the New York State Department of Corrections and will be sentenced on June 16, 2014.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso of the Financial Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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