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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

## State Prison Inmate Sentenced for Tax Refund Scheme

*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 was sentenced to 2 ½ to 5 years in State Prison before the Honorable Judge Peter A. Lynch this morning in Albany County Court.

On April 21, 2014, AUGUSTINE pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony.

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.

In accordance with the plea agreement, the 2 ½ to 5 year period of incarceration will run consecutive to the sentence that he is currently serving in the Department of Corrections. AUGUSTINE must also pay \$4,530.00 in restitution back to 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 District Attorney Soares. “These tax credits were designed to provide a bit of relief for residents of New York City, not to be abused by inmates at Rikers Island”.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Matthew Peluso of the Financial Crimes Unit.

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

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