

January 19, 2011

Sentencing for theft of one million in sales tax

The owner of a Suffolk tile company was remanded to the county jail today for keeping one million dollars in sales tax paid by consumers at his stores between 2003 and February of 2009.

Frank Procida, 49, of Bayshore, has paid \$1.6 million in restitution to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said. The additional \$600,000 paid by the defendant covered interest and penalties.

Procida pleaded guilty to first degree grand larceny and one count of offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree.

In addition to 30 days in jail, Procida will serve five years probation.

Procida Tile has four Suffolk retail locations in Coram, Patchogue, Medford, Deer Park and Lindenhurst.

“This was a year-long investigation that involved the collection and inspection of nearly 300 boxes of records,” District Attorney Spota said.

The district attorney’s Tax Crimes Unit, created by DA Spota to aggressively investigate and prosecute tax scofflaws, has recorded more than 350 convictions since 2002 and secured the payment of over \$8 million dollars in restitution to the Suffolk County and New York State treasuries.



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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.