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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Waukesha Businessman Sentenced for Embezzlement**

*Receives One Year in Prison, Seven Years Probation*

Today, Michael Spahr of New Berlin was sentenced in Waukesha County Circuit Court for four counts of embezzlement. Spahr received one year conditioned time in jail and seven years' probation. Circuit Court Judge Lee S. Dreyfus, Jr. also ordered restitution of \$213,500 and Spahr cannot operate a business while on probation.

On February 18, Spahr pled guilty for failing to remit \$238,530 in taxes that were withheld from his employees' wages between February 2004 and January 2013. Spahr previously paid \$20,000 when he entered his plea in February.

According to the criminal complaint, Spahr has operated D.S. Electrical Contractors, Inc. in Menomonee Falls since 1997. Employers are required to deduct Wisconsin income taxes from their employee's wages, hold the money in trust, and deposit these taxes with the Department of Revenue

Spahr is a former tax accountant, and he admitted to filing all the withholding tax forms for the business, including the W-2s for his employees. He also admitted that he knew that the forms he was filing with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue were not accurate and he was not sending in all the money he should have. When Department investigators asked why he did not remit what he knew he should have, Spahr admitted that he made an error in judgment, but also said that his business didn't have enough money.

Spahr was prosecuted by the Wisconsin Attorney General's Office based upon an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Section.

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