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Racine County Man Charged with Filing False Tax Returns, Theft, Forgery, Identity Theft, Misconduct in Public Office

James F. Svoboda III was charged in Racine County with six felony counts of filing a false income tax return, seven felony counts of theft, four felony counts of forgery, one felony count of business identity theft, one felony count of misconduct in public office and one misdemeanor count of theft.

According to the criminal complaint, from 2013 to 2019 Svoboda had been employed as the Parks Manager for Village of Caledonia and Village of Mount Pleasant, during which time he embezzled \$335,912.

The complaint further alleges that from 2013 to 2019 in his position as Parks Manager, he oversaw all revenue functions for the parks, cemetery, vendors and suppliers. It was in this capacity that Svoboda was able to steal money from individuals using park and cemetery services and, ultimately, have the money deposited into his bank account. Further, he used work accounts to have unauthorized work done on his private vehicles. He also used the village's Menards account to purchase supplies to build a four-season room on his home. Additionally, he used the embezzled money for personal gifts, gambling, and vacations.

Svoboda did not claim any of the embezzled money from the Village of Caledonia and the Village of Mount Pleasant on his personal income tax returns from 2013 to 2019. This was done with the intent to evade paying taxes on the embezzled income and obtain a refund from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR), which he was not entitled to.

These charges are the result of an investigation and referral of charges by the Mount Pleasant Police Department and Special Agents from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation. Svoboda faces up to 110 years in prison, a \$230,000 fine, or both, if convicted.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation investigates individuals and businesses suspected of committing tax crimes and seeks criminal prosecution for the crimes committed.

To report tax fraud, go to www.revenue.wi.gov and click the "Report tax fraud" link under Quick Links.

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