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October 13, 2017

To: The Chilmark Board of Selectmen  
From: Chief Jonathan Klaren  
Re: Job well done by Sergeant Sean Slavin

I would like to bring to the Board's attention a recent and notable investigation that Sgt. Sean Slavin participated in as a Chilmark Detective.

In November 2013, Sgt. Slavin became aware of a Chilmark resident that appeared to have been taken advantage of financially by a woman claiming to provide "psychic" and "cleansing" services.

Sgt. Slavin, believing that the woman was criminally being taken advantage of, tried to pursue the case at the district court level. When the case did not appear applicable in the district court, Sgt. Slavin passed his investigation along to the FBI. The U.S. Attorney's Office took over his case and announced last week (see attached press release) that Sgt. Slavin's suspect plead guilty in Boston federal court for tax evasion and has agreed to repay the Chilmark resident \$3,567,300.

While the FBI was the lead on this case and the resulting conviction is a result of their thorough investigation, I believe Sgt. Slavin's relentless and meticulous initial investigative steps, were a vital part of the FBI's successful prosecution of this case.

I am asking that the Board take a minute to recognize Sgt. Slavin's hard work on this case.

Respectfully

  
Jonathan P Klaren  
Chief of Police



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT *of* MASSACHUSETTS

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**Department of Justice**

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 5, 2017

## **Purported Psychic Pleads Guilty to Evading Taxes**

**Defendant charged elderly woman \$3.5 million for spiritual cleansing and exorcisms**

BOSTON – A south Florida woman, who purported to be a psychic, pleaded guilty today in federal court in Boston to impeding the Internal Revenue Service by hiding more than \$3.5 million of income that she was paid by an elderly Martha's Vineyard woman.

Sally Ann Johnson, a/k/a Angela Johnson, a/k/a Angelia Johnson, a/k/a Sally Reed, 41, pleaded guilty to attempting to interfere with the administration of the Internal Revenue laws. U.S. District Court Judge Denise J. Casper scheduled sentencing for Jan. 17, 2018.

Johnson owned and operated various businesses, including Flatiron Psychic, Psychic Match, Inc., and Psychic Spiritual Salon, Inc., all of which purported to offer "psychic readings," "spiritual cleansing & strengthening," and "meditation & healing." From 2007 to 2014, Johnson was paid over \$3.5 million by an elderly woman living on Martha's Vineyard to purportedly perform spiritual cleansing and healing services to rid the woman of demons through repeated exorcisms. Rather than reporting her income to the IRS and paying taxes on it, Johnson took steps to conceal it. Specifically, Johnson used an alias and directed the woman to send payments to at least three different bank accounts with which Johnson was associated, including an account in another person's name. Johnson then withdrew large portions of the woman's payments from the accounts in cash. In addition, Johnson accrued substantial charges on a credit card held in the name of the elderly woman, who ultimately paid the credit card bills, thereby concealing from the IRS the true extent of Johnson's income. Neither Johnson nor any of the businesses she operated filed a tax return or paid taxes on the income she received from the woman.

As part of a plea agreement with the government, Johnson agreed to repay \$3,567,300 to the Martha's Vineyard woman and to pay restitution to the IRS for the taxes she avoided from 2007 to 2014.

The charging statute provides for a sentence of no greater than three years in prison, one year of supervised release, a fine of up to \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss caused by the offense, and restitution. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Acting United States Attorney William D. Weinreb; Harold H. Shaw, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; and Joel P. Garland, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service's Criminal Investigation in Boston, made the announcement today. The Chilmark Police Department provided assistance with the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sandra S. Bower and Brian A. Pérez-Daple of Weinreb's Criminal Division are prosecuting the case.

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**Topic(s):**

Tax

**Component(s):**

USAO - Massachusetts

Updated October 5, 2017