



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Melinda Haag
Northern District of California

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CONTACT: JACK GILLUND
(415) 436-

[Jack.Gillund](#)

FORMER PLEASANTON WOMAN SENTENCED TO 36 MONTHS FOR TAX EVASION

Failed to Report \$3.8 Million

OAKLAND, Calif. – Ranni K. Hillyer was sentenced yesterday to 36 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount \$1,387,294 for tax evasion, United States Attorney Melinda Haag and Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Scott O'Briant announced.

According to her plea agreement, in 2002, Hillyer was the sole proprietor for Beyond CFO, a financial firm located in the San Francisco Bay Area. During that time, Beyond CFO had a consulting agreement with the chairman and chief executive officer of Ramsell Corporation, a public health service provider company in Oakland. In April 2003, Hillyer was hired by Ramsell Corporation as the CFO and was appointed as the COO. During 2002, 2003 and 2004, Hillyer was asked and agreed to be a financial investment advisor for the chairman/CEO and was given authority to handle his personal and business banking needs as well as having signatory authority over his bank accounts. During this period, while employed by Ramsell Corporation, Hillyer took funds from the chairman/CEO's personal and business bank accounts totaling at least \$3,880,862. She used these funds to pay vendors who worked on her personal residence, to pay off her line of credit at Bank of America, to pay for expenses relating to her businesses, to purchase real estate for herself and a family member, and to loan money to third parties. In doing so, Hillyer evaded the assessment of income taxes on the \$3,880,862 she took by failing

to report those funds on her federal income tax returns for 2002, 2003 and 2004. There is additional tax due in the approximate amount of \$1,387,294.

Hillyer, 57, a former a resident of Pleasanton, Calif., currently resides in San Diego, where she is employed by Aero Financial. She was indicted on Oct. 8, 2009.

Cynthia Stier is the Assistant U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Kathy Tat. The prosecution is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation.

Further Information:

Case #: 09-00982-PJH

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by e-mail at Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov.

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