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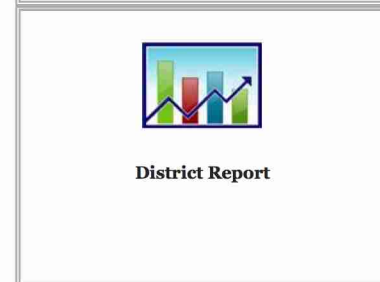
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District Report

TEMPERANCE MAN SENTENCED FOR DEFRAUDING INVESTORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 30, 2011

Stephen Sparks, 37, of Temperance, Michigan, a business partner of Global Points, was sentenced yesterday for federal fraud offenses, announced United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade. In January 2011, Sparks pled guilty to wire fraud and money laundering.

McQuade was joined in the announcement by Erick Martinez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and FBI Special Agent in Charge Andrew Arena.

Sparks, owner of Global Points, received a sentence of 24 months followed by 3 years of supervised release. In addition to the prison sentence, Sparks was ordered to pay over \$1.3 million in restitution and a special assessment of \$200 by United States District Court Judge Denise Page Hood.

According to court records, during 2006 through 2009, Sparks took part in a scheme that solicited over \$1 million from individual investors known to him as family, friends and former church members. Sparks represented to these investors that his business, Global Points, had an opportunity to purchase a warehouse full of Chinese electronic equipment and sell it in the United States at a substantial profit, returning over five times the amount invested. Sparks also represented that Global Point was in a position for a second had a second deal to acquire CD and DVD players that had been seized n Chicago, Illinois, and were being sold for the payment of back taxes. Sparks indicated that there would be a quick turn around and the profit would be twice the original investment.

Court records further showed that Sparks knowingly failed to inform the investors that he gave most of their money to his uncle, Barry Sparks, who had past criminal convictions for fraud. Sparks continued to provide excuses for the failure of the deals to close, and continued to solicit additional funds, claiming that the closings were imminent. Regarding the specific charges, in 2007, Sparks withdrew \$12,000 in cash from his bank account knowing that these funds had been wired from Ohio to Michigan by an investor and, therefore, derived from the proceeds of wire fraud.

"This sentence should send a clear message; schemes designed to defraud innocent investors are violations of Federal law and the consequences of such schemes can and will result in jail time." said Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Erick Martinez.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation and the FBI. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ross I. MacKenzie.

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EASTERN DISTRICT of MICHIGAN
211 W Fort Street, Suite 2001 - Detroit, MI 48226

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