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Description of document: List of Closed Treasury Inspector General for Tax

Administration (TIGTA) investigations, 2008-2009

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Posted date: 05-March-2012

Title of document TIGTA Investigations Final Closed Between 10/1/08 and

12/31/09

Source of document: Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration

Office of Chief Counsel Disclosure Branch

1125 15th Street, N.W., Room 700A

Washington, DC 20005 ATTN: Disclosure Officer Fax: (202) 622-3339

Email: FOIA.Reading.Room@tigta.treas.gov

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

January 29, 2010

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated December 27, 2009, for access to records maintained by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). Specifically, you requested "a printout of the IG investigations closed since October 1, 2008." We received your FOIA request on December 30, 2009. On January 20, 2010, you clarified your request, as wanting the same information previously requested in 2007 and 2008. Therefore, based on our conversation with you and your request, we are providing the number of investigations and types (generally) of investigations closed from October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009.

The TIGTA Office of Investigations produced two (2) pages that are responsive to your request. We are releasing both pages in part. See enclosed copies. FOIA subsections (b)(3) in conjunction with I.R.C. § 6103 and (b)(7)(C) are cited as the justification for withholding.

We have withheld the type and number of certain investigations contained in the report pursuant to FOIA subsection (b)(3) in conjunction with I.R.C. § 6103. The responsive information contains return information, as that term is defined in I.R.C. § 6103(a), of an individual or individuals other than yourself. The information pertaining to third parties was collected by the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to determining the liability of the individuals under Title 26, and therefore is exempt from disclosure to you in response to your FOIA request. The Supreme Court has held that return information retains its protected character under I.R.C. § 6103 even when identifiers (such as name, Social Security Number, case number, address, etc.) are removed. Thus, protected information cannot be released merely because all identifiers have been stripped out; there must be an exception under I.R.C. § 6103 authorizing its disclosure. Since there is no exception authorizing the disclosure of this information to you under the FOIA, we are withholding this material pursuant to FOIA subsection (b)(3) in conjunction with I.R.C. § 6103(a).

Subsection (b)(7)(C) permits an agency to withhold "information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." The withheld information consists of

identifying information compiled with regard to individuals other than you. Releasing the withheld information would not shed any light into the Agency's performance of its official functions, but instead could result in an invasion into the personal privacy of the individuals whose names and personal information have been withheld. The information was compiled for law enforcement purposes and the privacy interest of the third parties outweighs the public's interest in having the information released. As a result, this information has been withheld in response to your request.

We have enclosed an information sheet that explains the subsections cited above as well as your administrative appeal rights. You may appeal this decision within thirty-five (35) days from the date of this letter. Your appeal must be in writing and signed by you. You should address the envelope as follows:

Freedom of Information Act Appeal Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Attn: IG:CC Room 700A 1125 15th Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you should contact Program Analyst Monica Frye at (202) 622-2738 and refer to case number 2010-FOI-00053.

Sincerely, Monica Suse

Monica Frye

(for) Amy P. Jones Disclosure Officer

Enclosures

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