



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rankin County Resident Charged with Tax Evasion**

Steve Odell Page, age 56, of 104 Camelia Drive, Brandon, Mississippi, was indicted by a Rankin County Grand Jury on eight (8) counts of Tax Evasion and eight (8) counts for Fraudulent Statements and Representations.

The indictment states that Page, doing business as Fannin Mart of Flowood, LLC, produced false and fraudulent material documents and knowingly did not report all sales nor report the proper amount of tax for the business Sales Tax Returns and Special City Tax Returns. The indictment covers the tax periods in 2012 of April, May, August, September, October and November, and tax periods in 2013 of February and July.

During those tax periods, the indictment states that Page reported sales of \$61,830 when his actual sales were \$285,674. The indictment also provides that Page reported \$4,314 due for the 7% sales tax when the actual tax due was \$19,997. Further, Page reported \$1,234 for the Special City (Flowood) 2% tax when the actual tax due was \$5713.

Sales Tax and Special City Tax are Trust Fund Taxes which are taxes paid by customers to the retailer who is responsible for remitting those taxes over to the Mississippi Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue collects the City of Flowood's Special Tax which is a 2% tax imposed on the gross proceeds of sales of restaurants derived from the retail sale of prepared food, beer, and alcoholic beverages.

The Rankin County Sheriff's Department arrested Page on October 14, 2014 after the grand jury returned the indictment. He was released on a \$25,000 bond.

Agents from the Gulf Coast District and the Jackson District of the Department of Revenue investigated the case and turned the findings over to the Rankin County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.