



## MARION COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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### **Used car dealership owners charged for failure to remit taxes**

*Owners agree to pay nearly \$280,000 in restitution to the state*

(Indianapolis, Ind.) Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced today that two owners of Indianapolis area car lots have been criminally charged for their alleged failure to remit taxes to the state. Amy Lair and Brandi Pierson are accused of underreporting of more than \$8.29 million in sales at three used car dealerships. Both defendants have agreed to plead guilty to the charges and to pay \$281,346 from seized funds to the State of Indiana for unpaid sales taxes.

Lair has agreed to plead guilty as charged to two counts of Failure to Remit Taxes Held in Trust (Class D Felonies). She has agreed to pay \$43,538 for unpaid taxes associated with the business Circle City Auto Connection and \$118,352 for unpaid taxes associated with the business Circle City Auto Exchange. Pierson has agreed to plead guilty as charged to one count of Failure to Remit Taxes Held in Trust (Class D Felony) and to pay \$119,455 for unpaid taxes associated with the business Indy Auto Brokers. A total balance of \$595,346 is due to the Indiana Department of Revenue for unpaid sales tax.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in the case, an outside audit was completed for Indy Auto Brokers that highlighted discrepancies in the dealership's state tax forms. The audit showed more reported sales and tax collected than actual paid taxes. After this audit, it was discovered that Lair and Pierson held ownership over three used car dealerships involved in the alleged failure to remit taxes between 2011 and 2016.

*A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.*

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**NOTE:** The charging documents and probable cause affidavit filed in these cases can be downloaded at:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/zzmauesr7o6y1xw/Amy%20Lair\\_Brandi%20Pierson.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/zzmauesr7o6y1xw/Amy%20Lair_Brandi%20Pierson.pdf?dl=0)