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## **NEWS RELEASE**

South Carolina Department of Revenue

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 2, 2014

#### *Former Economic Development Director Wayne Gregory Arrested for Income Tax and Property Tax Evasion*

Wayne Emerson Gregory, Jr., of Union County, was arrested today by South Carolina Department of Revenue investigators and charged with three counts of income tax evasion and fourteen counts of property tax evasion, all of which are felony charges. If convicted, Gregory faces a sentence of five years and/or \$10,000 per count.

Gregory was employed by Georgetown County as the Economic Development Director from 2005 until September 2013. On April 1, 2014, Gregory was arrested by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office and charged with Embezzlement of Public Funds. Gregory was employed as the Economic Development Director for the City of Columbia from September 2013 until his arrest.

Following his arrest by the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office, the South Carolina Department of Revenue determined Gregory evaded payment of \$13,172 in state income tax for years 2010 through 2013. During this period, Gregory used his Georgetown County purchasing card to make unauthorized purchases of prepaid Visa cards, converting funds totaling more than \$194,435 for his personal use.

During its investigation, the South Carolina Department of Revenue discovered that in addition to evading state income tax, Gregory also evaded paying property taxes in the amount of \$17,172 from 2006 through 2013. Department investigators determined Gregory owned three residences – one each in Charleston, Georgetown and Greenville Counties — claiming each as his primary residence and illegally receiving the owner occupied assessment ratio of 4% on all three, a ratio legally permitted for only one residence.

"We are focused on and committed to the fair administration of tax laws," said Rick Reames, Director of the South Carolina Department of Revenue. "The evasion of property taxes is of increasing concern statewide and especially in coastal communities because of the significant impact on local governments' ability to serve their citizens."

Gregory is currently being held at the Georgetown County Detention Center and is awaiting bond hearings in Georgetown, Charleston and Greenville Counties.

#### **For More Information:**

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