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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2009**

**PARKING LOT OWNER ORDERED TO PAY CITY  
\$663,752 IN RESTITUTION FOR UNPAID PARKING TAX**

**LOS ANGELES** – Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Edmund Clarke today ordered local parking lot owner Sohrab Sahab and his company, Prestige Parking, Inc., to pay \$663,752 in restitution to the City of Los Angeles following multiple convictions for misappropriation of City taxes. The City Attorney's Office, working in partnership with the City Controller's Office, pursued what became one of the largest criminal tax fraud cases ever handled by City prosecutors. Full restitution in the case was secured by the trial prosecutor, Deputy City Attorney Richard Kraft, Supervising Attorney of the Special Trials Unit.

Judge Clarke ordered Sohrab Sahab, 47, and Prestige Parking to pay full restitution of \$663,752 – an amount arrived and supported by an examination of Prestige tax returns and Office of Finance records. A progress report is scheduled for December 14<sup>th</sup> in Department 45 of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Both Sahab and Prestige Parking were convicted of 295 counts on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Defendants were convicted of 135 counts of failing to remit parking occupancy taxes to the City; 149 counts of failing to file parking occupancy tax reporting forms; and 11 counts of operating parking lots in the City without a permit. On August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Judge Clarke sentenced Sahab to 525 days in jail, fines and 10 years probation.

During the trial, the City presented evidence that Sahab and Prestige Parking had for many years collected, but failed to remit, hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in parking occupancy taxes for 29 parking lots through the City. The \$663,752 restitution order included \$496,162 of misappropriated City taxes from 2005 and 2006 and \$167,590 in interest. Defendants must continue to pay 10% interest on the misappropriated taxes until paid in full.

Prestige Parking is listed by the City's Office of Finance as the top debtor in the City, owing millions of dollars in parking occupancy and business taxes, penalties and interest. The City Attorney's Office is currently pursuing a parallel civil action against Prestige Parking to recover additional unpaid taxes.

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