



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR MEDICAID-FUNDED HOME ATTENDANT
SERVICE COMPANY ARRESTED FOR STEALING
MORE THAN \$500,000**

LEV L. DASSIN, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of O'DELL HOLLAND, the Program Director of Tremont Community Council Home Attendant Program, Inc. ("Tremont"), a nonprofit home attendant program funded primarily by Medicaid. Tremont provides home attendant services to Medicaid-eligible, elderly, and disabled individuals in the Bronx. As alleged in the criminal Complaint unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:

From January 2004 through June 2008, Tremont held a contract with the New York City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") to provide home attendant services. Tremont's July 2007 contract with the City was valued at over \$445,000, a substantial portion of which consisted of Medicaid funds. At the time that contract concluded in June 2008, Tremont was providing home attendant services, including general housekeeping services, to approximately 200 clients. HOLLAND was the Program Director of Tremont from approximately 2002 through mid-2008, and was paid approximately \$76,000 by Tremont in 2007.

Bank records show that during the period May 2007 through September 2008, six wire transfers and eight checks (which were signed and endorsed by HOLLAND), in amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$75,000, and totaling \$531,500, were made from an account in Tremont's name to an account in HOLLAND's name. Bank

records obtained for the period July through November 2008 also show withdrawal slips for the account in HOLLAND's name, bearing the signature "O'Dell Holland," for cash in the total amount of approximately \$130,000.

The Complaint charges HOLLAND with embezzlement from an organization that receives funds under a federal program. HOLLAND faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison on this charge if convicted, as well as a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense.

HOLLAND, 37, of New York, New York, was arrested this morning and is expected to be presented this afternoon before U.S. Magistrate Judge DEBRA FREEMAN.

"This federally-assisted home attendant program is designed to assist some of the most vulnerable people in our community. But instead of helping others, the Complaint shows O'DELL HOLLAND helping himself to these home attendant funds," said Acting U.S. Attorney, LEV L. DASSIN. "The investigation is continuing," Mr. DASSIN added.

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said, "As New York City grapples with how to fund essential services, an executive of a nonprofit agency has been charged with embezzling a stunning amount of public money intended for some of the City's neediest and the home attendants who serve them. This case is a perfect illustration of why DOI has turned a sharp eye on abuses in City-funded nonprofits."

Mr. DASSIN praised the investigative work of the DOI.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorneys DANIEL L. STEIN and BRENT WIBLE are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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