



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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FORMER ELIGIBILITY SPECIALIST AT HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION SENTENCED TO MORE THAN FIVE YEARS IN PRISON FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing of AKIM T. MURRAY, a former Eligibility Specialist at the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") for his role in a Medicaid fraud that stole more than \$1 million in public funds. MURRAY, 53, of New York, N.Y., was sentenced to 63 months' incarceration and three years' supervised release. He is also ordered to pay a forfeiture of \$100,000 and \$1,383,500 in restitution. He is to surrender on or before March 2.

MURRAY pled guilty on September 11, 2014 to Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud, a felony, before U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The investigation was conducted by DOI and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This defendant took advantage of his position when he callously stole public money dedicated to the vulnerable New Yorkers he was responsible for assisting and protecting. DOI will continue to work with HRA to ensure the appropriate checks and balances are in place to root out corruption and maintain the confidentiality of client information."

As an HRA Eligibility Specialist in the Medicaid Reimbursement Unit, MURRAY issued reimbursements to individuals for Medicaid-eligible expenses. The investigation uncovered MURRAY, without proper supervision, was able to both create and approve requests diverting more than \$1.3 million in public funds to himself, his friends and criminal associates. Medicaid is a federally-funded program designed to provide low-income families with affordable health care. HRA oversees the program and processes applications from New York City residents.

MURRAY began working for HRA in March 1985 and at the time of his resignation in April 2014 he was receiving a salary of approximately \$45,978.

Commissioner Peters thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara, Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI New York Field Office Diego Rodriguez, and HRA Commissioner Steven Banks, and their staffs, for their assistance and dedicated partnership in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for HRA, including Assistant Inspector General Katy Diaz-Espinal and Investigative Auditor Rickey Young, under the supervision of Inspector General John Tseng.

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DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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