



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

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Contact Bill Reynolds: 518-474-1010 or 518-414-1299

## **FORMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF BRONX NOT-FOR-PROFIT SENTENCED ON BRIBERY CHARGES FOR SOLICITING NEARLY \$145,000 IN HOME IMPROVEMENTS FROM CONTRACTOR**

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced that Satnarine Seebachan, age 52, of Glen Cove, NY, the former program director of Bronx Shepherds Restoration Corporation (Bronx Shepherds), has been sentenced to six months of weekend incarceration and ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine for taking nearly \$145,000 worth of free labor and materials from contractors who had a business relationship with the not-for-profit he directed. He was additionally sentenced to five years probation.

“The defendant was program director for an agency whose mission is to provide new housing and rehabilitate existing housing for New Yorkers who need assistance in obtaining affordable housing,” said Inspector General Scott. “In this capacity, he abused his position for his own gain, undermining the mission and integrity of this important program. I will continue to investigate those who abuse their authority to ensure they perform their duties in an ethical and lawful manner.”

Seebachan served as program director at Bronx Shepherds, a not -for-profit corporation established to provide housing and housing restoration in the Bronx. Two of the organization’s programs -- the Weatherization Assistance Program and the Home Program -- were funded by the federal government through contracts with New York State Homes and Community Renewal.

Seebachan oversaw the bidding selection process, which included contracting with construction companies. The evidence showed that thousands of dollars in home improvements were made to Seebachan’s house by a contractor who received weatherization assistance and home renovation contracts for low and middle-income residents on federal assistance. He sought and accepted labor, materials and supplies from a contractor, with the intent to steer work from Bronx Shepherds to the contractor.

While the contractor was performing work and supplying materials to Seebachan’s Glen Cove home, he bid for and received numerous contracts with Bronx Shepherds under the federally funded programs paid through contracts with New York State. Seebachan improperly received over \$100,000 in exterior renovation and repair and concrete beautification work at his home, and \$44,500 worth of marble and marble installation services in his home paid for by the contractor, bringing the total value of services and materials received to \$144,500.

Seebachan was sentenced by the Hon. George B. Daniels of U.S. District Court. A jury found Seebachan guilty of the charges in September, 2013.

Inspector General Scott thanked Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, for his investigation and prosecution of this case.

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