



Lucy Lang
Inspector General

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February 16, 2022

Steven Banks, Esq.
Commissioner
New York City Human Resources Administration
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street, 38th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: OWIG 2908-318-2017

Dear Commissioner Banks:

On August 21, 2017, the Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General received an anonymous complaint alleging that ██████████ was receiving public assistance benefits for which she was ineligible. Specifically, it was alleged that ██████████ was employed by a nonprofit housing network in the Bronx and submitted falsified documentation to the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) in order to obtain public assistance benefits.

The Welfare Inspector General's investigation of this allegation found that ██████████ has received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and cash assistance benefits since December 2012. From at least December 2012 through November 2018, ██████████ received these benefits for herself and on behalf of ██████████ are included in her household composition. Starting in November 2018, ██████████ included her ██████████ in her household composition. The investigation found that starting in June 2018, ██████████ had left her household and should not have been included in her household composition.

On many of ██████████ applications and recertifications, she reported some level income to HRA from a variety of sources – including the Bronx nonprofit housing network, a bakery, and community outreach services. On at least four of her recertifications, ██████████ reported no income.¹

The investigation found that ██████████ may have underreported her earned income to HRA. For example, ██████████ was employed with the Bronx nonprofit housing network

¹ Recertifications dated June 8 and September 18, 2018, and March 13 and August 2, 2019.

as a senior case manager from August 12, 2015 through March 3, 2018, where she earned a total of \$82,214.94 during this period. However, on information and belief, [REDACTED] first reported her employment with this nonprofit to HRA in 2016, advising that she earned either \$11 or \$12/hour.² In another example, [REDACTED] was employed with a bakery from August 2013 to July 2014, where she earned a total of \$5,550.49. Yet [REDACTED] reported this employment on only one application in October 2013, when she advised that she earned \$217 per week through this employment.

[REDACTED] also failed to accurately report to HRA other sources of income. From a review of her bank records, the Welfare Inspector General found she received a total of more than \$7,595 from several nonprofit service providers and a pizzeria. Moreover, [REDACTED] made cash deposits into her bank accounts totaling \$51,559, and another individual transferred approximately \$28,378 to an account held by [REDACTED]

In addition, the investigation found [REDACTED] received a total of approximately \$14,221 in unemployment insurance benefits from the New York State Department of Labor from January 25, 2013 through April 10, 2018, which she failed to report to HRA. In January 2018, HRA sought to recoup from [REDACTED] \$4,843.85 in overpayments based on her receipt of unemployment insurance benefits, and HRA has recouped a total of \$2,543.37 as of October 2021.

Lastly, the Welfare Inspector General notes that HRA failed to maintain a complete set of applications for [REDACTED] in the HRA viewer. [REDACTED] applications and recertifications dated December 28, 2015; February 3, 2016; and September 18, 2018, were unavailable.

Accordingly, I am referring this matter to HRA for review of [REDACTED] benefits eligibility from December 2012 to present to determine whether an adjustment and/or further recoupment is necessary.

Please advise me of any action taken by HRA in response to this referral within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Deputy Inspector General Jessica Silver at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Lucy Lang
Acting Welfare Inspector General

² The recertification application dated December 28, 2015 is incomplete. As such, the Welfare Inspector General does not know the amount of income, if any, [REDACTED] reported on this application.

Cc: Martha Calhoun, Esq.
General Counsel

Laura Parker
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Fraud Investigation