



LUCY LANG
Inspector General

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May 27, 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 0281-318-2020

Dear Commissioner Banks:

In February 2020, the New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General began a proactive investigation examining clients with substantial Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) redemptions outside the borough of their address of record. Based on this investigation, [REDACTED] was identified as an individual who may be committing welfare fraud. We are writing to notify you of the results of this investigation.

A review of the Welfare Management System (WMS) indicates that [REDACTED] has had an active SNAP case since June 2017, and is currently receiving SNAP benefits for herself and her two children. Their current address of record is in Brooklyn. New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) documents show that applications and periodic reports submitted to HRA by [REDACTED] from 2017 through 2019 consistently indicate her address as being in Brooklyn. No Medicaid benefits are associated with their case through the Department of Social Services or the New York State of Health Marketplace.

A search on the HRA viewer shows that the father of record listed on birth certificates for both children resides in Great Neck. Records also were submitted from a doctor who lists his office address in Great Neck. Child support letters submitted to HRA by the father of record also indicate that he resides in Great Neck, and that he has been giving [REDACTED] child support from June 2017 to September 2018, and from April 2019 to October 2019.

Notably, a Specialized Fraud and Abuse Reporting System (SFARS) report indicates that from 2017 through the present, most of [REDACTED] SNAP benefits have been used at food markets and a drug store in close proximity to the father of record's reported residence.

On February 28, 2020, Welfare Inspector General investigators [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Results of the [REDACTED] were inconclusive.

Given the above, I am referring the findings of this investigation to HRA to investigate the eligibility of [REDACTED] to receive assistance from New York State, given the potential that she may be failing to report her correct address of record and not reporting an additional individual and income in her household, and any other action deemed appropriate.

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

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Martha Calhoun, Esq.
General Counsel

Laura Parker
Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Fraud Investigation