



Offices of the
Inspector General

LUCY LANG
Inspector General

Empire State Plaza • Agency Building 2, 16th Floor • Albany, New York 12223 • (518) 474-1010 • ig.ny.gov

May 9, 2024

Molly Wasow Park
Commissioner
New York City Department of Social Services
Human Resources Administration
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street, 38th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: OWIG 0495-318-2022

Dear Commissioner Park:

In March 2022, the U.S. Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General (SSA OIG) advised the Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General (OWIG) that [REDACTED] may be wrongfully collecting the social security benefits of her father, [REDACTED], who died in July 2016, and may have also failed to disclose her receipt of these funds to the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) despite simultaneously receiving public assistance benefits. SSA terminated payments of [REDACTED] social security benefits in April 2022.

OWIG's investigation of this allegation found that [REDACTED], a recipient of public assistance (Case Nos. [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]), did not report her receipt of any additional income in applications and recertifications for public assistance benefits that she filed with HRA during the period at issue. SSA records show that between July 2016 and April 2022, \$53,758 in Supplemental Security Income benefits were paid to the account of [REDACTED] by the SSA. In a memo to the Inspector General dated November 30, 2023, HRA indicated that were these benefits attributed as income to [REDACTED], she would have not been entitled to \$72,667 in public assistance benefits from HRA she received during the operative period.

The investigation also found that [REDACTED] likely used her father's EBT card after his death. Indeed, each of four transactions on [REDACTED] EBT card (Case No. [REDACTED]) in 2016 and 2017 occurred with seconds, and in the same locations, of transactions on [REDACTED] EBT card. Due to the date of these transactions security camera footage was unable to be obtained.

Despite these findings, the Inspector General and SSA IG were unable to conclusively establish that [REDACTED] was in fact availing herself of her deceased father's SSA or EBT benefits. As such, the matter was not referred for criminal prosecution.

The investigation did determine, however, that [REDACTED] was, during periods between 2020 and 2022, engaged in various employment and earning income that she did not report on her applications and recertifications to HRA. More specifically, she received approximately \$2,592 in income from [REDACTED] between 2020 and 2022, \$544 from [REDACTED] in 2022, and \$390 from [REDACTED] in 2022. Employment records obtained by the Inspector General confirmed that [REDACTED] was an employee at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] during this period.

Given the above, I am referring the findings of this investigation to HRA for any action deemed appropriate against [REDACTED].

Please advise this office 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 Ken Michaels at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucy Lang".

Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Ann Marie Scalia, Esq.
General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer

