



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Former Boston Housing Authority Director Indicted for Larceny, March 2016

On March 16, 2016, a Suffolk County grand jury returned an indictment charging former Boston Housing Authority (BHA) employee Alfred G. Davis with stealing grant money that was intended to benefit senior citizens in Boston. The grand jury charged Davis, 71, of Lynn, who had been the BHA's Director of Elder Services, with two counts of larceny over \$250, one count of forgery and one count of uttering.

The charges resulted from a joint investigation by the OIG, the Boston Police Department's Anti-Corruption Division, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

In 2008, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation named Davis a "Community Health Leader" and awarded him a grant of \$105,000 to help improve the health of Boston seniors living in public housing, along with a \$20,000 stipend to be used for his personal development as a community health leader. However, the investigation revealed that Davis, a 20-year employee of the BHA, never informed the housing agency of the grant funds aimed at helping its elderly residents. Davis used a portion of the funds to fulfill the grant's intended purpose but he is alleged to have misused \$20,000 for his own personal use, making a series of ATM withdrawals from the grant account totaling \$5,400 and receiving approximately \$9,900 directly from the foundation after he submitted a forged invoice for a senior fitness program that had already been funded, prosecutors said.

Davis used some of the grant funds to purchase taxi vouchers for seniors to travel to appointments at a community dental clinic, but later presented the clinic with receipts for the cab fares and requested reimbursement for the cost of the trips. The clinic used grant funds from another charity, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, to pay Davis approximately \$5,222 in travel and other reimbursements that he was not due.

Davis allegedly used the siphoned philanthropic funds to pay for personal expenses, including expenses while traveling to Las Vegas, New Orleans, and Barbados; a mattress; virility supplements; and collectible coins, prosecutors said.

The charges are allegations and defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information about the case, see the Suffolk County District Attorney's press release at <http://www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com/former-elder-services-chief-indicted-for-theft/>.