



## Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### **Former ROXSE Homes Worker Sentenced for Taking Bribes, August 2016**

On August 3, 2016, Ismael Morales, a former maintenance technician for ROXSE Homes, a subsidized housing development in Boston, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris to two years in prison and two years of supervised release for his role in a scheme to rent apartments at the housing development in exchange for cash bribes. Morales was also ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution. In May 2016, Morales pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and seven counts of corrupt receipt of payments by a federally funded organization. His co-defendant, Mathis Lemons, 42, of Brockton, also pleaded guilty to the same charges and is scheduled to be sentenced on September 20, 2016. The case was investigated by the Massachusetts Inspector General's Office along with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General, the Boston Police Department-Boston Regional Intelligence Center and Homeland Security Investigations.

The investigation uncovered evidence that Roxse Homes had a long waitlist of eligible applicants for subsidized apartments and had closed the waitlist to external applicants in 2009. In 2014 and 2015, Morales solicited cash payments from people who were not on the waitlist. In exchange, he provided those individuals with blank rental applications and instructed them to backdate the forms or to leave the documents undated. Lemons then altered Roxse Homes' computerized waitlist to include the people who paid the bribes, making it appear that they had applied for an apartment before the waitlist closed.

For additional information on the prosecution, see the U.S. Department of Justice's Press Release at: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-roxse-homes-worker-sentenced-taking-bribes>.