



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Joint OIG Investigation Results in Bribery, Conspiracy Convictions for Two Former Roxse Homes Employees, May 2016

In May, two former employees of a housing development in Roxbury pleaded guilty in federal court for conspiring to rent subsidized apartments to ineligible individuals in exchange for bribes.

Mathis Lemons, 42, of Brockton, the former assistant property manager at Roxse Homes in Boston, pleaded guilty on May 11 to one count of conspiracy and seven counts of bribery. On May 2, Ismael Morales, 36, of Jamaica Plain, a former maintenance technician at Roxse Homes, pleaded guilty to the same eight counts. The two men had been indicted in September 2015 as a result of a joint investigation by the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General, and the Boston Regional Intelligence Center at the Boston Police Department.

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.

Morales is scheduled to be sentenced on August 3, 2016. Lemons is scheduled to be sentenced September 20, 2016.

For additional information about the case, see the U.S. Attorney's press release at: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-roxse-homes-workers-plead-guilty-taking-bribes>.