



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

OIG Investigation Leads to Conviction of Former Burlington Housing Authority Official, February 2016

On February 9, 2016, Maureen Lynch, the former executive director of the Burlington Housing Authority ("BHA"), pleaded guilty of knowingly using her official position to secure an unwarranted privilege.

The unwanted privilege charge stemmed from her personal use of a BHA credit card in a case investigated by the Office of the Inspector General ("OIG"). The investigation resulted in Lynch's July 2015 indictment by a Middlesex County grand jury. See: [OIG Investigation Leads to Indictment of the Former Executive Director of the Burlington Housing Authority for Using the Authority's Credit Card for Personal Expenditures, September 2015](#).

In 2012, officials at the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD") reviewed BHA's operations and instructed Lynch to stop making personal purchases on the housing authority's credit card. In 2014, an OIG investigation discovered that after DHCD's warning, Lynch continued using the BHA credit card for personal purchases.

The OIG's review found she had reached the card's available \$20,000 credit limit, virtually all of which was attributable to personal expenditures. The purchases included a \$1,000 truck rental to move her son to Florida, \$2,200 in charges at a Florida motorcycle shop, \$2,000 for a trip to Disneyworld, \$1,300 in airfare for her daughter's honeymoon in Aruba, veterinary bills, dental expenses, and \$5,000 in cash advances.

Lynch had been the BHA's executive director for 12 years. She resigned in August 2015 and paid restitution of \$17,822 to the BHA's credit card company in January. Judge Kimberly S. Budd sentenced Lynch to 18 months probation.