



## Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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### **OIG Joint Investigation Leads to Charges Against Two Former Employees at a Roxbury Subsidized Housing Development, September 2015**

Two former employees at a Roxbury subsidized housing development have been charged with conspiring to rent apartments to individuals in exchange for cash bribes.

Mathis Lemons, 41, of Brockton, and Ismael Morales, 35, of Jamaica Plain, were indicted on September 8, 2015 on one count of conspiracy and seven counts of bribery. A joint investigation by the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of the Inspector General, and personnel from the Boston Regional Intelligence Center at the Boston Police Department led to the arrests.

According to the indictment, Roxse Homes had a long waitlist of applicants for subsidized apartments and had closed the waitlist to external applicants in 2009. In 2014 and 2015, Morales, a maintenance technician at Roxse Homes, solicited cash payoffs from people who were not eligible for the government-subsidized apartments because they were not on the waitlist. In exchange, he provided those individuals with blank rental applications and instructed them to backdate the form or to leave the document undated. Lemons, the assistant property manager at the development, then altered Roxse Homes’ computerized waitlist to make it appear that the people paying the bribes had applied for an apartment years earlier.

Lemons and Morales are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

For additional information about the charges against Lemons and Morales, see the U.S. Attorney’s press release at: <http://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/pr/former-roxse-homes-workers-charged-taking-bribes>.