



Office of the Inspector General Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Second Former ROXSE Homes Worker Sentenced for Taking Bribes, September 2016

On September 20, 2016, Mathis Lemons, 42, of Brockton, was sentenced to two years in prison and one year of supervised release in connection with a bribery scheme at ROXSE Homes, a subsidized housing development in Boston. U.S. District Court Judge Patti B. Saris also ordered Lemons, a former assistant property manager at ROXSE Homes, to forfeit \$18,300 he received in bribes and pay a special assessment to the court of \$800. Lemons must report to the U.S. Marshals Service to begin his prison sentence on December 8, 2016.

In May 2016, Lemons pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and seven counts of corrupt receipt of payments by a federally funded organization. His co-defendant, Ismael Morales, a former maintenance technician for Roxse Homes, was sentenced in August 2016 to serve two years in federal prison.

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-0>.