




**MEMORANDUM
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

OIG Reference: 2019-12-00054

To: Angela Hurlock, Chairperson, CHA Board of Commissioners
Matthew Brewer, Vice-Chair & Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee
Members of the Board of Commissioners
Tracey Scott, Chief Executive Officer

From: Kathryn Richards, Inspector General 

Date: June 13, 2023

Subject: Significant OIG Activity – Indictment of Edith Robins, Former HCV Landlord

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) writes to notify you that, on May 31, 2023, the Grand Jury sitting in the Circuit Court of Cook County returned a one-count indictment charging former Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) landlord Edith Robins with Theft of Governmental Property exceeding \$100,000, a Class 1 Felony.

The indictment stems from a CHA OIG investigation, which revealed that, from approximately January 1, 2008, to January 1, 2020, Robins fraudulently received Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) as an HCV landlord on behalf of her mother, Marie Gibson, a former HCV participant. Robins had power of attorney for her elderly mother and had obtained an accommodation due to Gibson's medical condition, which allowed Gibson to rent from a relative, as allowed under the HCV Administrative Plan in effect at the time.

However, Robins actively concealed the fact that in December 2007, Gibson moved out of the subsidized home and was placed in a long-term residential nursing facility, where Gibson lived until her death in January 2017. Robins also failed to notify the CHA of Gibson's death. Instead, Robins continued to collect HAP payments as an HCV landlord on behalf of Gibson. In March 2019, more than two years after Gibson's death, Robins submitted a CHA Informal Hearing Request on behalf of Gibson, after CHA began the process to terminate Robins' voucher for her failure to submit updated income documentation. Gibson's voucher was ultimately terminated as of January 2020, after Robins failed to appear at the informal hearing.

In total, Robins fraudulently received HAP totaling over \$110,037.00. Robins' arraignment is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Prosecution of the matter is being handled by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. The OIG's investigation will remain open pending the outcome of the criminal court proceedings.