




MEMORANDUM
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

To: Angela Hurlock, Chairperson, Board of Commissioners
Matthew Brewer, Vice Chairperson, Finance and Audit Committee
Tracey Scott, Chief Executive Officer
Cheryl Burns, Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer

From: Kathryn B. Richards, Inspector General 

Date: June 17, 2022

Subject: Significant OIG Activity – Indictment of Carla Rios & Sylvia Rodriguez

On Wednesday, June 15, 2022, the Grand Jury sitting in the Circuit Court of Cook County returned a four-count indictment charging former Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participant Carla Rios with State Benefits Fraud (Class 3 felony) and three counts of Forgery (Class 3 felony). The Grand Jury also returned a two-count indictment charging Rios's sister, Silvia Rodriguez, with Theft of Government Property (Class 1 felony) and Forgery (Class 3 felony). Rodriguez was the owner of the HCV property where Rios purportedly resided with her voucher.

The indictment stems from an investigation initiated by the CHA Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which found that, from September 2015 to March 2021, Rios fraudulently obtained housing benefits totaling over \$60,000 from the CHA. The payments related to these housing benefits were sent by the CHA, via direct deposit, to an account held by Rodriguez.

The OIG investigation revealed that Rios failed to report to the CHA various sources of income and residential properties she jointly owned with her husband. Rios resided in one of these properties during the time she was supposed to be residing in the HCV unit. The investigation further revealed that Rodriguez received the monthly payments from the CHA despite knowing Rios did not live in the HCV unit, and in fact, resided there herself. Rodriguez also submitted numerous fraudulent documents to the CHA alleging she was not the sister of Rios, a violation of CHA policy. The CHA terminated Rios's voucher in March 2021.

Rios and Rodriguez's arraignments are scheduled for June 30, 2022. Prosecution of the matter is being handled by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Public Integrity Bureau. The OIG's investigation will remain open pending the outcome of the criminal court proceedings.