




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

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**OIG Reference:** 2019-09-00060

**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:** December 8, 2022

**Subject:** Significant OIG Activity – Incarceration Following Violation of Terms of Probation, Silk Lumpkins, Former HCV Participant

*People v. Lumpkins, 21-CR-0069001*

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On December 7, 2022, Silk Lumpkins, a former Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participant, pleaded guilty to violating the terms of her probation and was immediately remanded to the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections for a sentence of three years for her crime of defrauding the CHA.

Lumpkins had previously pleaded guilty, in July 2022, to one amended count of State Benefits Fraud, a Class 3 Felony, and admitted to defrauding the CHA of more than \$100,000 in HCV housing benefits. The Honorable Judge Arthur Wesley Willis of the Circuit Court of Cook County had sentenced Lumpkins to 30 months' standard probation and restitution payable to the CHA in the amount of \$105,762.00, including \$20,000 payable on the date of the plea. Per the restitution order, Lumpkins was to make monthly payments of \$2,859.00 for the 30 months of probation.

When Lumpkins appeared in court to enter her guilty plea in July 2022, however, she personally tendered to the court a forged cashier's check payable to the CHA. In fact, and as she later admitted, she had purchased a \$20 cashier's check and altered it to appear to be a check for \$20,000. When the CHA deposited the cashier's check to its bank account, the bank returned it as unpaid.

Upon learning of the forged restitution payment, the Illinois Attorney General's Office moved to vacate the plea and sentence and also filed a petition for violation of probation. On December 7, 2022, prior to her hearing, Lumpkins admitted to forging the cashier's check in violation of her probation. Lumpkins' probation was terminated unsatisfactorily, and she was sentenced to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections related to the original State Benefits Fraud count. Lumpkins was immediately taken into custody.

The CHA OIG's underlying investigation revealed that from November 2015 through March 2020, Lumpkins fraudulently received housing benefits totaling approximately \$110,000 by concealing the following income and assets:

- Income from employment with several major companies, through the use of an alias (Pauline Williams) and a second social security number.
- Ownership of a residential home in Crystal Lake, IL. As part of her 2013 Marital Settlement Agreement, Lumpkins received sole possession of the residential property, and was not responsible for paying the mortgage, taxes, or insurance on the property.
- Monthly rent payments she had received since 2015 from tenants that rented the Crystal Lake property.
- Monthly child support payments.
- The income of her current husband, who was also an unauthorized household member.
- In addition, Lumpkins failed to disclose on her March 2015 CHA application a federal felony conviction for a bank robbery she committed in May 2010.

Lumpkins was originally indicted on December 30, 2020, with one count of Class X felony theft, Prosecution of the matter was handled by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Public Integrity Bureau.

The CHA OIG has closed this matter as sustained. Please feel free to contact me or Senior Investigator Justin King with any questions regarding this matter.