



Memorandum



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To: The Honorable Chairman, Joe A. Martinez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: May 4, 2011

Subject: Grant Recipient's Executive Director, Criminally Charged with Stealing County Grant Funds, Pleads Guilty During Trial; Ref. IG04-52

A joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and State Attorney's Office (SAO) that resulted in the arrest of Maura Bailey (Bailey), the Executive Director of United People Counseling Ministry Services (UPCMS), finally concluded earlier this week with a guilty plea in the middle of trial.

Bailey was the Executive Director of UPCMS, an organization whose mission was to provide food to the poor and those afflicted by HIV. UPCMS received two County grants to run a food bank. The grants were provided from the County's Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Strategic Business Management (OSBM). In 2004, DHS alerted the OIG to irregularities observed in UPCMS' submission of invoices for reimbursement. The investigation found numerous instances of double billing and false invoice submissions resulting in a theft of over \$30,000 of County grant funds. The investigation also uncovered that Bailey diverted County grant funds to her own personal use, including paying the mortgages of two homes that she owned and the mortgage of her relative. Bailey was arrested and criminally charged in June 2005.

The criminal proceedings were plagued with delays attributable to numerous defense requested continuances and other issues raised by the Defendant. Plea offers had been consistently offered to the Defendant; however, shortly after commencing trial, Defendant Bailey agreed to plead guilty to one count of Organized Scheme to Defraud, a second degree felony, and accept a sentence of 28 days in jail, followed by one year of house arrest, and four years of probation. As conditions of her sentence, Bailey will be ordered to pay restitution; costs of investigation to the OIG and SAO; and will not be allowed to apply or obtain a grant from any governmental agency, nor work for such an agency without the express consent of the Court.

The OIG is grateful to the County employees at both DHS and OSBM who remained consistently available and appeared in court numerous times throughout the pendency of the case.

cc: Alina T. Hudak, County Manager, Miami-Dade County
Jennifer Glazer-Moon, Director, Office of Strategic Management
Phyllis Tynes-Saunders, Director, Department of Human Services
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor, Miami-Dade County