



Memorandum



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To: Hon. Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
Hon. Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Ms. Maria Alonso, Board Chair, The Children's Trust
Charles M. Auslander, President/CEO, The Children's Trust

From: Patra Liu, Interim Inspector General

Date: January 15, 2014

Subject: Taxpayer Funded Children's Trust Grant Recipient Sentenced, Ref. IG10-38

Larrie M. Lovett, II (Lovett), Chairman and Director of the Brownsville Community Development Corp., Inc. (BCDC) entered a plea and was sentenced today to ten years of probation on the charge of Grand Theft, a second degree felony. Lovett was criminally charged in October 2012, as the result of a criminal investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office.

Lovett pleaded no contest to stealing over \$70,000 in grant funds from The Children's Trust (Trust) and other service providers. The Trust, which is primarily funded through Miami-Dade County property taxes, provides grants through its Youth Violence Prevention Initiative to community-based service providers to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent youth-involved violent crime.

Lovett's BCDC was the lead agency responsible for distributing funds from the *Youth Murder and Violence Prevention Service Partnership Program* to various community-based organizations that provide services in the Brownsville and Liberty City neighborhoods. Instead, Lovett submitted false invoices and fraudulent proofs of payment in order to mask his diversion of the grant funds. The stolen funds were used by Lovett to pay personal expenses and for vacations. The investigation also determined that he used the stolen money as his own spending money. In stealing these funds, Lovett also failed to forward the full amount of payment due to the community-based service providers and to a vendor hired as a program evaluator, leaving these providers shortchanged.

As part of Lovett's sentence and condition of probation, he is required to pay restitution to The Children's Trust and the shortchanged service providers. He is also required to pay costs of the investigation and perform community service. Lovett will be debarred from contracting with Miami-Dade County for a period of five years.

The OIG would like to thank The Children's Trust for its cooperation during the course of this investigation.

cc: Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor
Cathy Jackson, Director, Audit & Management Services Department
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor