




Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: The Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor, Miami-Dade County
The Honorable Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: July 2, 2018

Subject: Former CAHSD Temp Employee Pleas Guilty at Arraignment for LIHEAP
Fraud - IG16-0022-I

Aracelia Najarro-Rodriguez, a former Miami-Dade County temporary contract employee who was arrested three weeks ago, pled guilty last Friday at her arraignment on a felony grand theft charge stemming from her assignment at the Community Action and Human Services Department (CAHSD). Ms. Najarro-Rodriguez had worked for nine years as an Eligibility Interviewer for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federally-funded initiative administered through CAHSD, which provides assistance to families with energy costs.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigation, jointly conducted with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office, found that Ms. Najarro-Rodriguez stole a \$360 Florida Power & Light refund check belonging to a LIHEAP client. Ms. Najarro-Rodriguez had written her own address on the victim's refund application, and upon receiving the victim's check she deposited it into her own personal bank account. Ms. Najarro-Rodriguez was terminated from her position at CAHSD in the course of this investigation.

Ms. Najarro-Rodriguez's plea of guilty to one count of Grand Theft 3rd Degree resulted in her receiving a sentence of one year of probation with the special conditions that she pay restitution, pay costs of investigation, and perform 30 hours of community service.

The OIG appreciates the assistance of CAHSD during this investigation.

cc: Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Community Action and Human Services Department
Alex Ferro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor
Cathy Jackson, Interim Commission Auditor and Director,
Audit and Management Services Department