



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 Chairman Joe A. Martinez,
and Members, Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County

From: Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General

Date: August 1, 2012

Subject: Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Recipient Pleads Guilty to Grand Theft and Public Assistance Fraud, Ref: IG11-02

Melanie Lyn Davis (Davis), a program participant of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8 Program), pled guilty as charged to Grand Theft and Public Assistance Fraud on July 3, 2012. Davis was arrested last September as a result of a joint investigation by the Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General (OIG), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General (U.S. HUD OIG), and the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office.

The federal Section 8 Program is locally administered by the Miami-Dade Department of Public Housing and Community Development (PHCD) (formerly known as the Miami-Dade Public Housing Agency). Since 2009, PHCD has contracted with Florida Quadel Consulting, Inc. (Florida Quadel), to administer the program on behalf of the County.

Davis was a participant in the Section 8 Program and received over \$28,000 in housing assistance subsidies during 2008 and 2009. Davis failed to disclose various sources of income and a contributing member of her household. Davis was, as uncovered by the OIG investigation, running a daycare facility out of her rent-subsidized home. The Melanie Davis Family Day Care Home received over \$55,000 between 2008 and 2009 in public subsidies from the County's Department of Human Services (now Community Action & Human Services), Child Development Services Bureau, for eligible low-income children to attend the day care. Davis failed to report this income and failed to report her husband's identity and his income as a contributing member of the household to Section 8 Program administrators.

Following her plea, Ms. Davis was adjudicated guilty, and was sentenced to probation for ten years on the Grand Theft charge, and a concurrent five years of

probation on the Public Assistance Fraud charge. The court also ordered Davis to pay restitution for the full amount stolen from the Section 8 Program – \$28,882. Additionally, Davis was ordered to pay court costs and costs of investigation to the OIG. The OIG appreciates the participation of the U.S. HUD OIG in this investigation, and the cooperation of both County departments, Public Housing and Community Development and Community Action & Human Services, and Florida Quadel Consulting, Inc.

cc: Russell Benford, Deputy Mayor, Miami-Dade County
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Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director, Community Action and Human Services
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