



Department of Justice

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THREE MORE BOGUS TAMPA LANDLORDS PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO STEAL HOUSING SUBSIDIES

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announced today MARK HEPBURN, age 30, ANTHONY GALLON, age 31, and WILLIAM REEVES, age 26, have all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to embezzling funds intended to be used as housing subsidies for low-income families. The maximum penalty each of these three men face is five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and three years of supervised release.

According to their plea agreements, HEPBURN, GALLON and REEVES were recruited by former Tampa Housing Authority employees to serve as fictitious landlords, although, they neither owned rental properties, nor had leases with legitimate Section 8 tenants. The THA receives thousands of dollars each year from the HUD to subsidize housing for low-income families, the elderly, and disabled individuals, as part of the Housing Choice Voucher Program, previously known as "Section 8." Former THA counselors MARIO LOVETT and CARLTON MILES have already pleaded guilty in the scheme. Another former THA counselor, CALVIN COLEMAN was indicted in December and faces similar charges. COLEMAN and LOVETT specifically caused fraudulent rent

subsidy checks to be issued to HEPBURN, GALLON and REEVES, who cashed them and paid a kickback to the counselors. In all, HEPBURN received three fraudulent checks totaling \$15,998.00; GALLON received three fraudulent checks totaling \$21,499.00; and REEVES received six fraudulent checks totaling \$31,984.00.

The three men who pleaded guilty today are among seventeen individuals charged since December 2007 with theft of federal housing subsidy payments through the bogus landlord scheme. Ten of the seventeen individuals charged have now pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

The case was investigated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development-OIG. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Cherie L. Krigsman and Thomas N. Palermo.