



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

DANIEL G. CORT  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

180 MAIDEN LANE  
NEW YORK, NY 10038  
212-825-5900

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**(212) 825-5931**

### **DOI STATEMENT ON SENTENCING OF FINAL DEFENDANT IN SCHEME THAT STOLE \$3.7 MILLION IN CITY-ISSUED PUBLIC ASSISTANCE CHECKS**

Daniel G. Cort, Acting Commissioner for the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing today in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York of SALIFOU CONDE to 55 months and five years supervised release in connection with his role in a three-year long scheme to steal more than \$3.7 million from the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA"), which is part of the City Department of Social Services ("DSS"). CONDE and another defendant, ISSIAGA SYLLA, worked for Deluxe Delivery Systems, which was contracted by DSS to retrieve undeliverable DSS rent subsidy checks from the United States Post Office and deliver them to DSS headquarters. These two defendants and three associates, who did not work for Deluxe, were involved in a scheme to steal more than 5,430 DSS checks totaling approximately \$3.7 million between 2016 and 2019. The defendants deposited the stolen checks into more than 100 different bank accounts. DOI worked in partnership with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), and the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance ("DTF") on this investigation.

DOI Acting Commissioner Daniel G. Cort said, "These defendants concocted a scheme to steal taxpayer funds rather than perform the job they were hired to do: safeguard and properly return City-issued public assistance checks to DSS. But investigators exposed their scheme and now they are paying the price of their illegal conduct. I thank our federal and state partners for their partnership on this complex investigation and in helping stop corruption in New York City. And I thank DSS for its cooperation."

The co-defendants in this investigation have received the following dispositions:

- CONDE, 32, of Jersey City, N.J., was convicted on June 29, 2021, after a four-day jury trial, of the federal offenses of bank fraud, wire fraud, and conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud. He was sentenced today, January 20, 2022, to 55 months and five years supervised release.
- SYLLA, 34, of New York, N.Y., pleaded guilty on June 15, 2021 to one count of bank fraud and was sentenced on November 19, 2021, to 18 months in federal prison and five years of supervised release.
- SEKHOU TOURE, 37, of the Bronx, N.Y., pleaded guilty on May 6, 2020 and was sentenced on September 3, 2020, to time served and six months in a half-way house.
- ABRAHIM DUKURAY, 42, of New York, N.Y., pleaded guilty on September 17, 2020 and was sentenced on February 25, 2021, to time served and six months of home confinement.
- ALSENY KEITA, 39, of the Bronx, N.Y. pleaded guilty on March 23, 2021 and was sentenced on September 30, 2021, to 18 months in federal prison and five years of supervised release.

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Acting Commissioner Daniel Cort thanked United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's New York Field Division Michael J. Driscoll, DTF Acting Commissioner and General Counsel Amanda Hiller, and their staffs, for their joint work on this investigation.

At DOI, this investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Wai Yu and Investigative Auditor Yanyan Wang, under the supervision of Director of Audits Laila Yu, Deputy Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Inspector General John Bellanie, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigation Dominick Zarrella, and Acting First Deputy Commissioner Philip Hung.

At the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the Office's General Crimes Unit handled the matter, with Assistant United States Attorneys Kedar Bhatia, Elizabeth Espinosa, Nicholas Folly, and Danielle Kudla in charge of the prosecution.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.*

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