



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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BROOKLYN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PARTICIPATION IN BRIBERY AND KICKBACK SCHEME INVOLVING FORMER CEO OF NEW YORK CITY NONPROFIT

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the guilty plea of SHEINA LEVIN in connection with an alleged scheme to pay bribes and kickbacks to VICTOR RIVERA, former President/Chief Executive Officer of a City-funded provider of homeless shelter services. LEVIN, the owner and operator of a real estate business, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud. U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein accepted her plea in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Her sentencing is scheduled for July 12, 2023. DOI investigated this matter in partnership with the office of Damian Williams, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This unscrupulous real estate company owner resorted to bribes and kickbacks to become the landlord of choice for a taxpayer-funded nonprofit that provides vital homeless shelter services. I would like to thank the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for their partnership in putting an end to this scheme."

During the relevant time period of May 2019 through January 2021, LEVIN, 60, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was the owner and operator of a for-profit real estate business. According to the Superseding Information, LEVIN allegedly paid bribes and kickbacks to VICTOR RIVERA, then the President and Chief Executive Officer of Bronx Parent Housing Network ("BPHN"), in exchange for agreements through which BPHN sub-leased property that LEVIN controlled. BPHN was and is a not-for-profit organization that provided shelter services to the New York City Department of Homeless Services. LEVIN allegedly made hundreds of thousands of dollars of illicit payments to RIVERA, and allegedly collected hundreds of thousands of dollars in profit through the scheme.

RIVERA pled guilty in February 2022 to conspiring to enrich himself through bribes and kickbacks provided to him by contractors of BPHN and he was sentenced later that year to 27 months' imprisonment and two years of supervised release. [Read more here.](#)

This case was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys David Abramowicz and Tara La Morte in the Money Laundering and Transnational Criminal Enterprises Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

Senior Investigative Auditor Jeffrey Freeman in DOI's Office of the Inspector General for City-funded Nonprofits conducted this investigation, under the supervision of Chief Forensic Auditor/First Deputy Inspector General Ivette Morales, Senior Inspector General Andrew Sein, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort. DOI's investigation was conducted in partnership with Special Agents of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

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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