



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FORMER SUPERVISOR AT A BROOKLYN, CITY-FUNDED NONPROFIT CHARGED WITH
USING UNAUTHORIZED SIGNATURE STAMP OF A SENIOR EXECUTIVE AT THE NONPROFIT
ON ADOPTION PAPERWORK, SOME FILED WITH FAMILY COURT**

—The arrest took place on September 23, 2023, and the defendant was arraigned today, October 9, 2026—

Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a former Unit Supervisor with a Brooklyn, City-funded nonprofit on charges of signing adoption paperwork with an unauthorized signature stamp that bore the signature of the nonprofit's Deputy Executive Director. The unauthorized stamp was used on pending paperwork, as well as paperwork filed with Family Court primarily in Brooklyn, but also Family Court in the Bronx. The nonprofit, Heart Share St. Vincents ("HSSV"), supports children, adults, and families facing crises, poverty, and trauma, and receives public funds through the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"). DOI's investigation was prompted by allegations from HSSV. DOI worked in partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting the case.

JOHN OLUFEMI, 66, of New York, N.Y., who held the title of Permanency Unit Supervisor at HSSV, was arrested and charged on September 23, 2026, with 22 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and 15 counts of Issuing a False Certificate, both class E felonies. He was presented with a Desk Appearance Ticket to return for his arraignment in Brooklyn County Criminal Court, on Friday, October 9, 2026. OLUFEMI was released on his own recognizance and is due back in court on February 2, 2027. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Nadia I. Shihata said, "As charged, this defendant allegedly misappropriated an executive's signature at a City-funded nonprofit where he worked, affixing it to critical adoption documents for filing in Family Court. He then allegedly furthered those illegal actions by affixing his Notary Public seal to the falsely signed documents. This type of misconduct undermines the integrity of the adoption process. Thankfully, the nonprofit at issue discovered this alleged fraud and reported it promptly to DOI. I thank the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and the nonprofit for working with DOI to hold accountable those who jeopardize official paperwork, particularly documents submitted in a court of law."

According to the allegations in the criminal complaint:

In his role as Permanency Unit Supervisor, the defendant processed and oversaw adoption paperwork by obtaining documents and signatures required for an adoption to be filed and would pass those documents on as an adoption packet ("the packet") to the adoption attorneys who would file the packet with the Family Court on behalf of the adoptive parents. At all times the Deputy Executive Director of HSSV was the authorized signatory on the HSSV adoption packet forms. The adoption paperwork at issue in this case was processed at HSSV in Kings County and then filed in the Family Court of Bronx County and primarily Kings County Family Court.

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In July 2024, while the defendant was out on leave, HSSV reviewed outstanding adoption paperwork from the defendant that needed to be processed and found a rubber stamp with the Deputy Executive Director's signature that had been used to "sign" several different adoption documents that were to be finalized and transmitted to attorneys for filing in Family Court. The Deputy Executive Director had never consented to a stamp being made of her signature to use on these documents and had not given the defendant permission or authority to sign for the Deputy Executive Director. In fact, the Deputy Executive Director always signed these adoption documents with a wet signature and did not use a stamp. Additional documents with the unauthorized stamp signature were also discovered among adoption packets that had already been filed in Family Court and in which adoptions had been finalized.

The defendant was a Notary Public of New York and used his official notary certification stamp and signature to notarize the Deputy Executive Director's unapproved stamped signature on the documents in violation of an authorized use of his official function as a public servant. In all, the Deputy Executive Director indicated that the defendant used the unauthorized stamp 22 times and used his notary seal on these fraudulent documents 15 times between July 1, 2022 and April 30, 2024.

OLUFEMI began working at HSSV in March 2004 and was terminated in August 2024 as a result of this investigation.

Commissioner Shihata thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and his staff for their partnership on this investigation. Senior Assistant District Attorney Tamara Edelstein in the District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau is prosecuting this case. Commissioner Shihata also thanked HSSV for reporting the allegations and HSSV and ACS for their cooperation in the investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Assistant Inspector General Shameika Nixon and assisted by Special Investigator Natalia Yip, both of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General/Special Investigative Counsel Harlyn Griffenberg, Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael P. Mullahy, and Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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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