



The City of New York
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Release #11-2022
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022**

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**FORMER CEO OF NEW YORK CITY-FUNDED BRONX PARENT HOUSING NETWORK
SENTENCED TO PRISON TERM OF 27 MONTHS IN FEDERAL COURT**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of VICTOR RIVERA to a term of 27 months' imprisonment and two years of supervised release. In February 2022, RIVERA pleaded guilty to conspiring to enrich himself through bribes and kickbacks provided to him by contractors of the Bronx Parent Housing Network ("BPHN"). He was sentenced today in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York by U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein. DOI investigated this matter in partnership with the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "As the head of a City-funded nonprofit that received millions of dollars in public funds, Victor Rivera had an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Instead, he chose to exploit the system and engineer a bribery-and-kickback scheme to benefit himself and his relatives. As a just result, Victor Rivera is headed to federal prison, while BPHN continues to serve the public under an ongoing DOI monitorship."

RIVERA, 62, of Stony Point, N.Y., was the President and Chief Executive Officer of BPHN between 2013 and 2020 when he ran an illegal scheme of soliciting and accepting bribes and kickbacks from contractors doing work related to or for the City-funded nonprofit he ran. As a result of this illegal conduct, RIVERA obtained at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in illicit gains. RIVERA is no longer employed by BPHN, a City-funded nonprofit that operates shelters and affordable housing facilities in New York City. RIVERA also laundered some of the corrupt payments through intermediary entities he controlled, including through a purported consulting company nominally owned by one of RIVERA's relatives.

Commissioner Strauber thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams, and his staff, for their partnership and successful prosecution of this matter. The investigation was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys David Abramowicz and Tara La Morte of the Money Laundering and Transnational Criminal Enterprises Unit at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for City-funded Nonprofits, specifically Senior Investigative Auditor Jeffrey Freeman, 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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