

Charles J. Hynes
District Attorney



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KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARLES J. HYNES AND NYC HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONER ROBERT DOAR ANNOUNCE INDICTMENT OF A TAX PREPARER WHO RECEIVED NEARLY \$99,000 IN NYC MEDICAID BENEFITS WHILE LIVING IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

DEFENDANT OWNED THREE PROPERTIES IN BROOKLYN, OWNED AND LIVED IN A HOME WITH A POOL IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, DROVE LUXURY CARS AND RAN A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS.

Brooklyn, August 1, 2012 – Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and New York City Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar today announced the indictment of Jean-Claude Elizer, 46, for fraudulently receiving Medicaid benefits for himself and his three children, by lying about his income, residence and assets from January 1, 2006 to July 25, 2012.

Charges against the defendant include Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted of the top count, Mr. Elizer could face up to 15 years in prison.

According to the indictment, Mr. Elizer listed 623 East 85th Street in Brooklyn as his residence on his HRA application and claimed he was employed at Five Star Income Tax Corp. at 1722 Flatbush Avenue, a tax preparation business where he made \$350-\$405 per week. The defendant said he owned no property or other assets.

Property records listed Mr. Elizer as the owner of both the Flatbush location and the 85th Street location, as well as of a third Brooklyn building at 428 E. 53rd Street. The indictment alleges that the defendant received rental income on all three properties, ranging from \$15,000-\$30,000 a year. Business records show he is the owner Five Star Income Tax, Corp. which consistently brought in over \$100,000 yearly.

“This defendant pretended to be a Brooklyn resident in order to steal from those individuals truly in need of the help and services that the city’s Human Resources Administration provide,” said District Attorney Hynes. “He and others like him cannot hide from justice. No

matter where they live, we will find them and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law. I would like to thank Commissioner Doar and HRA for their assistance in this investigation.”

According to the indictment, property records show that in 2007 he purchased a home at 7 Miranda Drive in Suffolk County with his wife for over \$540,000, where he lives with his three children. Bank records show he had multiple personal and business bank accounts. In 2011, he made out checks totaling \$14,000 to a Suffolk County landscaper. In addition, DMV records show Elizer currently owns a 2010 Mercedes Benz C Class sedan and a 2007 Chevrolet Corvette convertible.

“To be eligible for New York City public assistance programs, an applicant must live in New York City. Those who intentionally provide false information on their residency in an official application are committing fraud and should be forewarned that their actions will not be tolerated. I would like to thank Brooklyn District Attorney Hynes for his continuous commitment to pursue the prosecution of those who commit Medicaid fraud,” said HRA Commissioner Robert Doar.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant’s guilt.

The investigation was conducted by Investigator Syeda Islam of the New York City Human Resources Administration, and Detective Investigators Kevin McAleese, Cindy Fernandez, Michael Sidlowski, Clyde Augustine and Efrain Alvarado of the Kings County District Attorney’s Office. Investigative assistance was also provided by Ilya Schwartzburg, a summer legal intern from New York University School of Law.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy Bureau Chief Sabrina Thanse of the Public Assistance Crimes Unit. Lauren Mack is the Chief of the Public Assistance Crimes Unit.

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