




**MEMORANDUM
CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

OIG Reference: 2019-07-00002

To: Matthew Brewer, Interim Board Chairman
Members of the Board of Commissioners
Angela Hurlock, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Cheryl Burns, Chief Housing Choice Voucher Officer

From: Kathryn Richards, Inspector General 

Date: August 27, 2025

Subject: Significant OIG Activity – Guilty Plea and Sentencing of Former HCV Participant Anna Cartagena and HCV Vendor William Lorenzo Roman

On August 22, 2025, former Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participant Anna Cartagena and her husband and former HCV landlord William Lorenzo Roman, each pleaded guilty to one amended count of Felony Theft by Deception and were sentenced to two years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Prior to their plea, the couple paid the CHA restitution totaling \$40,000.00. The court also entered judgment orders, which permit the CHA to pursue the remaining restitution of \$157,478.00 from Cartagena and Roman.

A CHA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) investigation found that, from May 2005 to June 2019, Cartagena fraudulently obtained CHA housing benefits totaling over \$153,000 by jointly owning and residing in her HCV property with Roman. Cartagena also failed to report various sources of income and her joint ownership with Roman of a second residential property. The second property was occupied by Cartagena's mother, a former HCV participant, and Cartagena's stepfather. As the HCV landlord for Cartagena's mother and stepfather, Roman received over \$44,000.00 in rent payments from the CHA.

The CHA sent the HCV payments to Roman's P.O. Box or via direct deposit to Roman's bank account. Roman often withdrew these HCV payments from the account via cash withdrawals or checks made payable to Cartagena. The CHA terminated Cartagena's voucher in June 2019. When the second property went into foreclosure, Roman sold it to Cartagena's stepfather, who similarly received rental payments related to his wife's voucher from August 2013 until her death in March 2021. Cartagena maintained an interest in this property and was added as a signatory on the bank account where her stepfather received the HCV payments.

Cartagena and Roman were initially indicted in February 2024 in the Circuit Court of Cook County and charged with multiple counts of Theft of Governmental Property and Forgery. Prosecution of the matter was handled by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Public Integrity Bureau. The OIG's investigation is now closed.