



The City of New York  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SUSPENDED NYCHA SUPERINTENDENT SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS IN PRISON  
FOR TAKING \$54,150 IN BRIBES IN EXCHANGE FOR AWARDING NYCHA CONTRACTS**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on today’s sentencing of JOY HARRIS, a suspended Superintendent at the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”), who was one of 70 defendants charged with demanding and receiving cash in exchange for awarding NYCHA micro-purchase contracts and other contract work to vendors. HARRIS was suspended without pay upon arrest, and was convicted after a jury trial on October 17, 2024. DOI investigated this case with the New York Field Office of Homeland Security Investigations (“HSI”); the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General (“HUD-OIG”); the Northeast Region of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (“DOL-OIG”); and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which prosecuted the case.

JOY HARRIS, 49, of Bushkill, Pennsylvania was convicted in October 2024 of bribery and extortion under color of official right for soliciting and accepting tens of thousands of dollars from contractors in exchange for awarding those contractors no-bid contracts at NYCHA developments. HARRIS was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan in the Southern District of New York to 41 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. As part of the sentence, HARRIS was also ordered to pay \$54,150 in restitution to NYCHA and to forfeit \$54,150 in illegal proceeds. She is scheduled to surrender no sooner than April 9, 2025.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “As a NYCHA superintendent, this defendant had a duty to maintain and improve housing conditions for residents of NYCHA housing authority. Instead, she exploited her position and authority to award no-bid contracts, demanding and accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribes from vendors in exchange for hundreds-of-thousands of dollars in contracts. Her illegal conduct drained resources that should have benefited NYCHA residents. Today she faces the consequences of her actions. I thank the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and our federal law enforcement partners for their commitment to ensure integrity in procurement and public spending.”

HARRIS, an assistant superintendent and superintendent assigned to several NYCHA developments in Manhattan, had the power to award no-bid contracts. From approximately 2015 to 2021, HARRIS solicited and accepted a total of approximately \$54,150 in bribes in exchange for awarding no-bid contracts, requiring contractors to pay bribes up front in order to be awarded the contracts or after the contractor finished the work and needed a NYCHA employee to sign off on the completed job so that the contractor could be paid by NYCHA. HARRIS typically demanded 10% of the contract value — between \$500 and \$1,000, depending on the size of the contract.

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As of today, 64 of the 70 defendants have been convicted, and the cases against six defendants are pending.

HARRIS began her employment at NYCHA in February 2001, was suspended without pay upon her arrest in February 2024, when her annual salary was approximately \$106,720.

NYCHA accepted each of [the 14 recommendations](#) DOI issued in connection with the arrests in this case and has implemented 11 of them.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Matthew Podolsky, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for the Office's partnership on this investigation, which was handled by the Public Corruption Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Catherine Ghosh, Jerry Fang, Jacob Fiddelman, and Meredith Foster are in charge of the prosecution, with the assistance of Paralegal Specialists Jayda Foote and Nandita Vasantha.

Commissioner Strauber also thanked the New York Field Office of HSI; the Inspector General of the U.S. HUD OIG; and the Northeast Region of the U.S. DOL-OIG, and their staffs, for their work on the investigation, and Lisa Bova-Hiatt, NYCHA's Chief Executive Officer, for her and her staff's cooperation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Karen Smith of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA and supervised by Assistant Inspectors General Enio Bencosme and Robert Joyce, Deputy Inspector General Gregory Deboer, Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

*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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