



*United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 13, 2009**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
YUSILL SCRIBNER,  
JANICE OH  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 637-2600**

**DOI  
DIANE STRUZZI  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE  
(212) 825-5931**

**FORMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF MEDICAID-FUNDED NONPROFIT  
PLEADS GUILTY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT  
TO STEALING NEARLY A MILLION DOLLARS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and ROSE GILL HEARN, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that O'DELL HOLLAND, the former Program Director of Tremont Community Council Home Attendant Program, Inc. ("Tremont"), a nonprofit home attendant program servicing elderly and disabled individuals in the Bronx, New York, pleaded guilty in Manhattan federal court before United States Magistrate Judge RONALD L. ELLIS to stealing more than \$900,000 from Tremont.

As alleged in the Indictment to which Holland pleaded guilty:

From January 2004 through June 2008, Tremont contracted with the New York City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") to provide home attendant services to Medicaid-eligible, elderly, and disabled individuals in the Bronx. HOLLAND served as the Program Director of Tremont from approximately 2002 through mid-2008, and was paid approximately \$76,000 by Tremont in 2007.

As Program Director, HOLLAND caused over \$900,000 belonging to Tremont to be diverted for his personal benefit. HOLLAND made multiple unauthorized wire transfers from a Tremont account to a personal account in his name, and wrote multiple checks payable to himself on the Tremont account. These wire transfers and checks totaled in excess of \$570,000. HOLLAND also made unauthorized wire transfers totaling approximately \$135,000 from the Tremont account to an architect to pay for renovations and other architectural work at a nightclub in the Bronx and at a residence in Pomona, New York, both of which HOLLAND owned.

Finally, HOLLAND had hundreds of thousands of dollars transferred from the Tremont account to accounts held by a Manhattan law firm and one of its principals; approximately \$258,000 of that money was later transferred to HOLLAND, or to third parties on HOLLAND's behalf, through checks drawn on an escrow account in the law firm's name.

HOLLAND, 39, of New York, New York, pleaded guilty to a one-count Indictment charging him with embezzlement from an organization that receives funds under a federal program. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. HOLLAND is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge ROBERT W. SWEET at a later date.

U.S. Attorney PREET BHARARA stated: "Instead of carrying out his duties as program director of a federally-funded nonprofit, O'Dell Holland abused his position by diverting close to one million dollars to himself and his Bronx nightclub. Today, Holland admitted to stealing money that he pledged to faithfully administer for the well-being of the elderly and disabled. Together with our partners at DOI, our Office will continue to hold accountable those who misuse publicly-funded organizations intended to help those in need by helping themselves to the nonprofits' scarce resources."

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN stated: "This corrupt insider methodically drained nearly a million dollars from his own nonprofit at the expense of its elderly and disabled clients. His eye-popping theft captures the outsized damage done when an unworthy individual gains control of a program entrusted with public funds. Today's guilty plea confirms that DOI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York continue to seek justice in these cases and end the abuse."

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of DOI.

The prosecution is being handled by the Office's Public Corruption Unit. Assistant United States Attorney BRENT WIBLE is in charge of the prosecution.

10-122

###