

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that George McCray, 67, of Niagara Falls, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Richard J. Arcara, to theft of public money. The charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward H. White, who is handling the case, stated that between 2005 and 2010, the defendant was a resident the Anthony Spallino Towers, a public housing unit in Niagara Falls, New York. During that time, McCray received rental assistance from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligibility for rental assistance through HUD is based on a family's gross income. For each year the defendant completed his household income statement, he claimed his Social Security benefits as his only source of income, failing to include the Workmen's Compensation benefits he was receiving. McCray falsely understated his gross income in order to fraudulently receive a larger amount of HUD rental assistance benefits. As a result, the defendant received a total of \$16,017 in additional subsidies from HUD that he was not entitled to receive.

The plea is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the direction of Special Agent-In-Charge Rene Febles.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 13, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in Buffalo, N.Y., before Judge Arcara.

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