

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT ADVOCATE  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSION ON ETHICS & PUBLIC TRUST  
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

K #: K09-122 SECTION 8 MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY

Date Opened: October 1, 2009 Date Closed:

Name of investigator: Arthur D. Skinner  
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**Allegation:**

This matter was predicated upon the receipt of information that Gisela Salomon was illegally receiving section 8 voucher funding with the assistance of an unknown Miami-Dade County employee.

Section 2-11.1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County, the County's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. (g) *Exploitation of official position prohibited.* No person included in the terms defined in Subsections (b)(1) through (6) shall use or attempt to use his official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for himself or others except as may be specifically permitted by other ordinances and resolutions previously ordained or adopted or hereafter to be ordained or adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

**Investigation:**

On October 1, 2009 COE Staff Attorney received the following information by telephone from a Cathy Veloz at (214) 664-6263 (E-mail [catherineveloz95@yahoo.com](mailto:catherineveloz95@yahoo.com)):

Ms. Veloz says that her husband's former wife, Gisela Salomon, and Ms. Salomon's brother are taking advantage of the Section 8 program. Ms. Veloz does not know who in the Public Housing Agency may be responsible for these alleged abuses, but she believes that a county employee must be helping Ms. Salomon and her brother obtain unfair advantages.

According to Ms. Veloz, Gisela Salomon has many sources of income that would disqualify her from receiving Section 8 housing vouchers, including income from Ms. Salomon's current husband and unreported income Ms. Salomon obtains from housecleaning. Ms. Salomon apparently has enough extra income to take several trips each year to Cuba.

Ms. Salomon recently upgraded her Section 8 housing arrangements to move into a Section 8 subsidized 4-bedroom apartment, even though she does not have a large enough family to qualify for 4 bedrooms. (Ms. Salomon's one son is 24 years old.) The address of the 4- bedroom apartment is not known, but the former Section 8 addresses for Gisela Salomon are as follows: 10938 SW 244 Terrace, Homestead, FL 33032, 2417 SW 24th Ave., Miami.

Gisela Solomon's brother owns his own home, but his wife (although they may not be legally married) receives Section 8 vouchers. The brother is paying off the mortgage of the home he owns with the money he and his wife receive from Section 8 vouchers.

On January 11, 2010, MDPHA Public Information Officer Ms. Annette Molina (786) 469-4110 was interviewed by telephone, and gave the following information: The section 8 housing has been contracted since April 1, 2009 to a company called "Quadel" located at 7400 NW 19<sup>th</sup> Street Bay "H" , Doral, Florida. Ms. Molina looked up the computerized file of Gisela Salomon (Client # 114207). The file indicated that Salomon lives at 10938 SW 244 Terrace, Homestead, FL 33032. She pays \$1350.00 per month rent . The government portion of the rent is \$966.00 and \$384.00 is paid by Salomon. According to the file she lives with 2 adults Yasmel Veloz (24 years old) and Lazara Zayas (30 years old). Ms. Molina said the record didn't indicate the size of the house that Salomon was living in, only that she was under the "Rent to Own" program. Ms. Molina stated that there was not enough information available to tell if they was living in a 4 bedroom house. If this was the case the size of the family or number of people

living in the house would disqualify Salomon. Ms. Molina stated that she would have a person from "Quadel" contact the COE to make an appointment to review the original file.

On January 13, 2010, COE Investigators went to 10938 SW 244 Terrace, Homestead, FL 33032. The person who answered the door was Andres Alvarado (305-397-7827). The purpose of the visit was explained to Mr. Alvarado he gave the following information:

Mr. Alvarado identified as an active duty Coast Guard employee. Mr. Alvarado has rented this residence since March 2009. He does not know any of the former residents of the house. He claims that her received mail addressed to Gisela Salomon and Larzara Zayas, most of the mail is from Miami Dade county and the State Department of Children and Families. Mr. Alvarado leaves the mail in the P.O. Box to be returned to the Postal Service.

Mr. Alvarado says that the present owner of this residence is Maher Chafir (786-486-7281). Mr. Alvarado stated that sometime during April 2009 an Inspector from Miami Dade County checked the residence and took photographs. He was told by Chafir that the inspection was part of the mortgage approval process. Mr. Alvarado stated that the house is a three bedroom residence.

On January 13, 2010, MDPHA Public Information Officer Ms. Annette Molina (786) 469-4110 was interviewed by telephone, and gave the following information: There are no section 8 checks are being mailed on behalf of this client since April or May of 2009.

On January 27, 2010, Quadel Performance and Records Manager Dwayne Knight contacted the COE and gave the following information: Knight stated that Client Gisela Salomon (Client # 114207) is active according to the Quadel computer system. Knight said that this client was one of the cases that Quadel did not receive a file from MDPHA. Knight said he will send the contact information for the section 8 voucher and

the name of the landlord that is receiving the section 8 checks for Gisela Salomon (Client # 114207).

On February 2, 2010, Quadel Investigator Ana Mendoza (305) 471-5261 was interviewed by telephone, she gave the following information: According to the records given Quadel by MDHA July 2009 the account of Gisela Salomon (Client # 114207) is still an active voucher account. The last payment made to Gisela Salomon (Client # 114207) was made July 2008 (Check# : 356194 on 07/01/2008 Case worker Kiberenge, Wanjohi , Gisela Salomon of 10938 Sw 244 Terr , Miami for \$1,187.00). Ms. Mendoza has placed an alert on the client in the case that she attempts to file another claim for a housing voucher. Ms. Mendoza stated that the original was not given to Quadel when they took over the housing voucher program from MDHA in July 2009.

**CONCLUSION:**

This matter was referred to the contractor "Quadel" for investigation.