



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

CASE NUMBER:





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INVESTIGATIVE RECORD REVIEW

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number:

(b)(7)(E)

Region/Office: Region 5 - Chicago/Cleveland

Title: James Noyes, ED Ashtabula MHA

Narrative:

BASIS FOR INVESTIGATION:

An anonymous referral to the HUD OIG Hotline alleged a local housing authority executive director purchased music equipment using the housing authority credit card at a box store vendor. Further, it is alleged the executive director worked a 10-hour work week while earning over \$100,000 in salary and benefits.

SYNOPSIS:

This investigation supports the allegations that James Noyes (Noyes), former executive director of the Ashtabula Metropolitan Housing Authority (AMHA), defrauded the AMHA by using the agency's credit card for his own personal use. As a result, Noyes was sentenced to 2-years community control and ordered to pay \$20,880 in restitution to AMHA after pleading guilty to committing an attempted theft in office and falsification. Specifically, from January 2014 through July 2017, Noyes used AMHA's credit card to purchase \$20,879.23 in computer and audio equipment for his own personal use; including: an Apple computer, sound recording equipment and software, and data storage devices. Noyes is a musician who goes by the name "Jimmy Rocket" on his YouTube videos. Noyes used the AMHA credit card to further his music career. Furthermore, Noyes falsified requisition orders by concealing the true identity of the purchases and by claiming the purchases were for AMHA. Subsequent interviews determined that the materials purchased by Noyes had no purpose at AMHA.

Report by:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Approved by:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

Date:

04/14/2021

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REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

Case Number: (b)(7)(E)

SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION:

NAME: James Noyes

DOB: XX/XX (b)(6);

SSN: XXX-XX (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

ADDRESS: (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Public housing in the United States is administered by federal, state and local agencies to provide subsidized assistance for low-income households. Public housing is priced much below the market rate, allowing people to live in more convenient locations rather than move away from the city in search of lower rents. Now increasingly provided in a variety of settings and formats, originally public housing in the U.S. consisted primarily of one or more concentrated blocks of low-rise and/or high-rise apartment buildings. These complexes are operated by state and local housing authorities which are authorized and funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION:

During this investigation, numerous witness interviews, file and document reviews were conducted and the subject was interviewed.

In May 2017, HUD OIG was contacted by the Ohio Auditor of State of Ohio (AoS) Special Investigative Unit (SIU), who reported they received a referral from (b)(6); (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C) reported receiving an email from an anonymous sender, who reported Noyes purchased items using Federal or State AMHA funds for his personal use. The complainant detailed they wished to remain anonymous, for fear of retribution and reprisal. The complaint included a list of musical items purchased by Noyes for his part-time musical career. The email documented the following AMHA credit card purchases which the complainant claimed to be for Noyes' personal use:

- 06/24/2014 purchase from "Newegg"; 2 Sennheiser microphones - \$219.00, Reamp-JCR music recording amplifier - \$199.00, SE Electronics irf2 microphone filter - \$99.00, Shure sm58 microphone - \$198.00, and 4 onstage microphone stands - \$99.80.
- 07/14/2014 purchase from "Newegg"; Nady hpa4 4 channel headphone amplifier - \$95.98, 4 stereo cords - \$39.96, 3 Sennheiser DJ and studio headphones - \$420.91.

