

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

Inspector General



August 21, 2008

The Honorable Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor  
District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Mayor's Correspondence Unit, Suite 316  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**RE: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Dear Mayor Fenty:

This report is to inform you of the results of an investigation that was conducted by Special Agent Bernadette Todd-Atwater, District of Columbia Office of the Inspector General (OIG), concerning allegations of fraud in obtaining public assistance, fraudulent usage of food stamps, and conspiracy to commit a crime against the District of Columbia Department of Human Services (DHS) Income Maintenance Administration (IMA), by Charles Brown, a former DHS employee.

This investigation revealed that between January 2004 and April 2006, Mr. Brown schemed to defraud the IMA of approximately \$10,000 in food stamp benefits. Mr. Brown used his position as a Social Service Representative at the DHS Fort Davis Service Center to fraudulently obtain food stamp benefits for Dionne Witherspoon, a former DHS employee, and to obtain food stamp benefits in the name of Lawrence Cutchember, a fictitious individual. As part of his scheme, Mr. Brown submitted and processed false and fraudulent food stamp applications in exchange for cash payments.

On June 6, 2008, Mr. Brown was convicted by a jury before the Honorable John Ramsey Johnson, Judge, Superior Court for the District of Columbia, to two counts of Fraud in Obtaining Public Assistance; two counts of Unlawful Food Stamp Usage; five counts of False Representation; one count of Identity Theft; and one count of Conspiracy to Commit a Crime.

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On August 14, 2008, Judge Johnson sentenced Mr. Brown to 5 years and 360 days incarceration, which was suspended except for 660 days, and 60 months supervised probation. In addition to the incarceration, Mr. Brown was ordered to pay \$9,556 in restitution.

If you need any additional information, please call me or Stacie Pittell, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, on (202) 727-2540. When calling, please reference OIG Control Number 2006-0214.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Willoughby  
Inspector General

CJW/bta