

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



July 30, 2012

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Mayor
District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mayor's Correspondence Unit, 2nd Floor, Suite 316
Washington, D.C. 20004

RE: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT

Dear Mayor Gray:

This report is to inform you that on November 10, 2011, a United States District Court judge sentenced Charles Ike Emonogha (aka Charles Emor), the founder and former Executive Director of Sunrise Academy, a not-for-profit special education institution, to 18 months of incarceration and 3 years of supervised release, for stealing more than \$2.4 million in District and federal government funds meant to serve the needs of special education students. In addition, on March 26, 2012, the court ordered Mr. Emor to pay \$2,358,536.40 in restitution to the District and to forfeit to the federal government a 2006 Lexus Sport Utility Vehicle that previously had been seized.

Special Agent Bernadette Atwater and Special Assistant United States Attorney Dangkhwa Nguyen of the D.C. Office of the Inspector General and investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service conducted the investigation. The investigation revealed that from 2006 to 2010, Mr. Emor diverted approximately \$500,000 from Sunrise Academy to cover personal expenses such as rent, college tuition for his son, child support payments, jewelry, art, electronics, and luxury vehicles. In addition to those funds that were drawn directly from Sunrise Academy accounts and used for Mr. Emor's personal expenses, Mr. Emor also siphoned approximately \$2 million from Sunrise Academy accounts into the bank accounts of a shell company that Mr. Emor established.

On August 9, 2011, Mr. Emor pled guilty to one count of Wire Fraud. Subsequently, the court held evidentiary asset forfeiture hearings to determine the loss amount, restitution amount, and to identify the victim of the fraud scheme. Ultimately, the court determined that the District government was a victim entitled to restitution and ordered restitution of the \$2,358,536.40 and forfeiture of the Lexus. At this time, ancillary forfeiture proceedings are ongoing.

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If you need any additional information, please call me or Stacie Pittell, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 727-2540. When calling, please reference OIG Control Number 2009-0353.

Sincerely,



Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General

CJW/bta