



SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General
For The Troubled Asset Relief Program

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FORMER CUYAHOGA COUNTY LAND BANK EMPLOYEE CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR LYING TO FEDERAL AGENTS INCLUDING SIGTARP AGENT

Today, former Cuyahoga County Land Bank official Kenneth Tyson was convicted and sentenced to two years' probation and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine for making false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements to federal agents, including a SIGTARP Special Agent, in violation of 18 U.S. C. section 1001.

“SIGTARP is responsible for finding crime in the federally-funded blight demolition program and lying to SIGTARP special agents will be met with justice,” said Special Inspector General Christy Goldsmith Romero. “By making false statements during a federal investigation to a SIGTARP Special Agent and another federal agent, Tyson caused SIGTARP to perform additional investigation that would not have been necessary had he told the truth. I thank the United States Attorney’s office for standing with SIGTARP to bring justice in this case.”

From in or around June 2018 through in or around December 2018, SIGTARP, HUD Office of Inspector General (HUD OIG) and the FBI were investigating Tyson in connection with his position at the Cuyahoga County Land Bank. Cuyahoga County Land Bank had received \$60 million from TARP’s Blight Elimination Program to demolish blighted houses.

In October 2018, Special Agents from SIGTARP and HUD OIG interviewed Tyson in connection with the investigation. Tyson knowingly and willfully made the following materially false, fictitious, and fraudulent statements to the Special Agents, that is: (1) M.R., a former contractor with the Land Bank, had never done any work for Tyson personally; and (2) Tyson paid a plumber to install a waterline in his home. In truth and in fact, and as Tyson then well knew, M.R. had arranged to have work done on Tyson’s home, including obtaining the plumbers to install a waterline, and Tyson never paid the plumbers or M.R. for this work. Tyson’s false statements caused the Special Agents to perform additional investigation.

SIGTARP was joined in the investigation by the FBI, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General, and the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigations. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio prosecuted the case.

To report a suspected crime related to TARP, call SIGTARP's Crime Tip Hotline: 1-877-SIG-2009 (1-877-744-2009). To receive alerts about reports, audits, media releases, and other SIGTARP news, sign up at www.SIGTARP.gov/pages/press.aspx. Follow SIGTARP on Twitter @SIGTARP.

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