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Former City Contractor Arrested for Theft

Following a City of Chicago Office of Inspector General (IGO) investigation, an indictment has been filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County charging a former City of Chicago contractor with four counts of theft from the City of Chicago.

Fannie Weinshenker, 57, was arraigned today before Cook County Judge James Obbish. If convicted of the most serious charges, Weinshenker faces a minimum six year term of incarceration. She was released on a \$25,000 bond.

The charges result from extensive cooperation between the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the IGO, and is part of the State's Attorney's second round of "Operation Cookie Jar," an ongoing investigative operation targeting public or government employees accused of theft or other financial crimes at the local level.

Weinshenker was formerly employed by Unisource Group Incorporated, a City vendor who held a contract to provide garbage liners to several City departments. Weinshenker managed the contract for Unisource. The indictment charges the defendant with defrauding the City by reducing the quantity of liners contained in each box while still charging the City full price. The IGO's investigation estimated that Weinshenker defrauded the City out of more than \$180,000 over two years.

The City Department of Procurement Services (DPS) has since initiated permanent debarment proceedings against Weinshenker. DPS is also seeking a three year debarment for her employing firm, Unisource Group. The IGO strongly supports these actions.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

Anyone with information about alleged corruption in City government is encouraged to contact the City Inspector General's Office either through its hotline (866-448-4754) or through its web site at www.chicagoinspectorgeneral.org.

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