



Inspector General's Office City of Chicago

180 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 2000

Chicago, Illinois 60601

(773) 478-7799

(773) 478-3949 (fax)

<http://www.ChicagoInspectorGeneral.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2010

CONTACT: (773) 478-4680

Dan Sprehe, Special Assistant

FORMER NON-PROFIT EXECUTIVE PLEADS GUILTY TO FELONY THEFT; SENTENCE INCLUDES YEAR IN PRISON, \$100K IN RESTITUTION TO CITY

The former head of a non-profit social service organization pled guilty today in Cook County Circuit Court to one count of felony theft of government funds. Patti Buffington, 51, of Chicago was arrested in October 2006 and charged for the misappropriation of city, state, and federal funds provided to Genesis House - an organization that assists women in leaving prostitution.

The charges were the result of an investigation, initiated by the Inspector General's Office and conducted jointly with the Cook County States Attorney's Office and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, with assistance from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General.

Buffington pled guilty pursuant to a plea agreement negotiated with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, under which she paid \$100,000 in restitution to the City of Chicago at the time of her plea. She will serve one year in state prison.

Inspector General Joe Ferguson remarked on the case as "a particularly noteworthy multi-agency effort for having attained not only an appropriate criminal sanction, but also the recovery of a substantial amount of taxpayer money."

###