



CYRUS R. VANCE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
OF THE
COUNTY OF NEW YORK
ONE HOGAN PLACE
New York, N. Y. 10013
(212) 335-9000

September 30, 2016

Beatrice M. Disman
Senior Advisor to the Acting Regional Commissioner
New York Region
Social Security Administration
26 Federal Plaza, Room 40-120
New York, New York, 10278

Dear Ms. Disman,


Thank you for your continued assistance in my Office's Social Security Disability Insurance ("SSDI") fraud investigation. Pursuant to our recent conversation, attached are the names and social security numbers of individuals that you may want to consider redetermining the entitlement of the amount of social security benefits that they received. The individuals were a part of our investigation and we believe they may have fraudulently obtained SSDI benefits.

As you are aware, our ongoing investigation revealed that numerous individuals retained attorney Raymond Lavallee to obtain SSDI benefits and Lavallee, working together with Thomas Hale, Joseph Esposito and John Minerva, referred these applicants to pre-vetted psychiatrists Dr. Edward Sodaro and Dr. Raymond Pierre-Paul, among other doctors, in order to fabricate a psychiatric disability prior to their applying for SSDI. Mr. Lavallee and his co-conspirators further assisted applicants with completing paperwork that contained false statements regarding their activities of daily living, and coached applicants about how to behave during Consultative Examinations, ALJ hearings, and treatment sessions with pre-designated doctors. The medical reports prepared by these doctors reached the same diagnostic conclusions. Invariably, these doctors began treating their "patients" approximately one year before the claimants submitted their SSDI applications—the minimum time necessary to establish a disability. Even after the claimants left the New York area, they continued to receive treatment from the same psychiatrists, sometimes receiving treatment by telephone.

The investigation further revealed that after obtaining SSDI benefits, applicants paid cash kick-backs to Mr. Lavallee and his co-conspirators over and above the authorized representative fee, which was paid directly by SSA. Additionally, in order to retain the fraudulently obtained benefits, Mr. Lavallee and his co-conspirators instructed the applicants to report falsely about the progress of their conditions in a way that would result in the indefinite continuation of benefits. Furthermore, applicants whose eligibility for SSDI automatically converted into retirement benefits consistently stopped psychiatric treatment upon conversion, further undermining the legitimacy of their claimed mental disabilities.

We believe that the applicants listed in this letter's enclosure follow some or all of the patterns described and consequently may have obtained SSDI benefits under fraudulent pretenses. I am referring the list to your office for further inquiry and possible administrative action on their SSDI benefits because we do not believe that there is a substantial risk that redetermining the entitlement of these individuals would jeopardize the criminal prosecution of any person involved in the fraud. See 42 U.S.C. § 405(u)(1)(A).

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued and indispensable partnership on the issue of SSDI fraud.



Michael R. Sachs
Executive Assistant District Attorney
Chief of Investigation Division

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TO REMOVE PERSONALLY
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