

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT

To: Hon. Muriel Bowser

Mayor of the District of Columbia

From: Daniel W. Lucas

Inspector General

Date: July 7, 2025

Subject: Yessica Moya Sentenced and Ordered to Pay \$4,450 for Extorting

District Residents Seeking Public Benefits

OIG No. CRM-20-00564

Between 2022 and May 2023, Yessica Moya worked with former Department of Human Services (DHS) employee Ruth Nivar to extort money from vulnerable District residents. Ms. Moya charged residents fees ranging from \$150 to \$200 for processing public assistance applications, including DC Healthcare Alliance and Immigrant Children's Program applications. This service should have been provided free of charge as part of Ms. Nivar's job responsibilities. Ms. Nivar directed at least 50 applicants to pay Ms. Moya for service that should have been free.

On January 3, 2025, Ms. Moya pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371, and one count of aiding and abetting extortion under color of official right in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1951(a).

On June 23, 2025, the US District Court for the District of Columbia sentenced Ms. Moya to 24 months of supervised probation. Additionally, Ms. Moya was ordered to forfeit \$4,000 and pay \$250 in restitution and a \$200 special assessment fee.

If you would like any additional information, please contact me or Kathryn Jones, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, at (202) 727-5864 or kathryn.jones@dc.gov.

¹ On April 25, 2025, Ruth Nivar, a former DHS Supervisory Social Services Representative, was sentenced to 24 months in federal prison for extorting money under this scheme between 2018 and May 2023. See <u>USAO press release</u>.