

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION**

To: File

Date: May 9, 2014

From: [REDACTED]  
Investigator

Re: DOI # 14-02522 823 *ABM*

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**CLOSING MEMORANDUM**

The following is a summary only of information pertaining to this investigation and may not contain each and every fact learned during the course of the investigation.

**ORIGIN AND NATURE OF ALLEGATION:**

The New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”) Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA IG”) recently concluded an investigation regarding whether Thomas “aka Tommy” Torres (“Thomas”) resided with his mother, [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] which is part of [REDACTED] (“NYCHA address”). The NYCHA IG determined that Thomas did not reside with [REDACTED] who is the sole authorized occupant of the apartment at the NYCHA address. However, the NYCHA IG found that in 2013, while residing in the Bronx, Thomas was a candidate for the New York City Council in the 34th District and used his mother’s NYCHA address as his purported residency in the 34th District. The NYCHA IG referred the matter to DOI’s Board of Elections Inspector General Unit (“BOE IG”).

**RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION:**

The NYCHA IG investigation found a number of records that listed Thomas’s residence as the NYCHA address. Thomas’s Payroll Management System records, his New York City Department of Education employment records, his voter registration records, and forms submitted to the New York City Campaign Finance Board in support of his candidacy in the 2013 City Council election, all provide the NYCHA address as his home address.

However, the NYCHA IG found that various Internet searches and other records linked Thomas to a different address: [REDACTED] (“the Queens address”). Bank records included monthly rent checks, dated 2007 to May 2012, from Thomas to [REDACTED] who is listed on property records as part owner of the Queens address. In addition, on separate visits by NYCHA investigators to the Queens address, an occupant of the first floor apartment who has resided there since May 2012, as well as other neighbors, confirmed that Torres was the former tenant of an apartment at the Queens address.

On October 7, 2013, during an interview with NYCHA investigators, [REDACTED] stated that Thomas lived in the Bronx with his girlfriend. On the same day, Thomas’s sister, [REDACTED] confirmed that Thomas had been living in the Bronx for approximately a year, and had previously lived in Queens for several years. The NYCHA IG subsequently received Thomas’s EZ Pass records between September 2012 and September 2013, indicating almost daily trips to

and from the Bronx where he lives to Brooklyn where he works, according to DOE records. In addition, on October 18, 2013, Thomas contacted the NYCHA IG and left a voicemail message providing his home address in the Bronx: [REDACTED] Our Internet searches indicate that the [REDACTED] address in the Bronx has been the residential and voter registration address of [REDACTED] It is DOI's understanding that the girlfriend with whom Torres resided was former [REDACTED]

Based on the information provided by the NYCHA IG investigation, the BOE IG inspected the original designating petition sheet and petition volumes filed with the Board of Elections in the City of New York ("BOE"). The BOE IG found that each sheet had the NYCHA address listed as Thomas's "Place of Residence." The BOE IG also found that Thomas himself signed one of the petition sheets, and hand wrote the NYCHA address as his place of residence. The petition sheet provided that upon signing the sheet, Thomas attested that statements regarding his place of residence were true.

Additionally, further inspection of Thomas's voting history provided that Torres has been registered to vote at the NYCHA address since 2009 and has voted in Brooklyn for all elections between 2009 and 2013, despite living at the Queens address from 2007 to 2012, and despite currently living in the Bronx.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

DOI substantiated that Thomas has not resided at the NYCHA address for several years but nevertheless used the NYCHA address as his purported place of residence to run as a candidate for the City Council in Brooklyn's 34th District, which included filing and signing petitions falsely claiming the NYCHA address as his residence. DOI also determined that Thomas has voted in Brooklyn on multiple occasions over the past several years based on his registration at the NYCHA address despite not residing in Brooklyn. On May 8, 2014, we referred our investigative findings to the Kings County District Attorney's Office to consider possible criminal charges and to the BOE for whatever action it deems appropriate.

Submitted by: [REDACTED]

Date: 05/09/14

Investigator

Approved by: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/9/14

Inspector General