Nonprofit CEO Arrested for Stealing Nearly $1M From HIV Housing Funds

Derek Broomes allegedly diverted federal money intended to help low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS.

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Derek Broomes, the president and CEO of a nonprofit faith-based housing organization in Harlem has been arrested and charged with fraud, embezzlement and misappropriation of more than $800,000 from federal funds designed to help low-income New Yorkers living with HIV/AIDS, according to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice.

The New York Daily News reports that the charity is called Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement and that Broome's actions "pushed the non-profit into financial tailspin—jeopardizing at-risk tenants." When the nonprofit failed to pay its clients' rents, their landlords threatened to evict them.

Broomes is charged with taking Scattered Site Housing Program (SSHP) money, which the nonprofit uses to help its clients.

The Justice Department press release states that Broomes's alleged misdeeds began in 2013 and that he used his "scheme to enrich himself at the expense of the nonprofit."

The Justice Department ends its press release with this statement: "The charges contained in the complaint are merely accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty."

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