



Theft of rent-aid fund nets 4-year sentence

A former county worker admitted to helping divert public funds meant for the poor to Twin Cities landlords.

By **ROCHELLE OLSON**, Star Tribune

Last update: May 5, 2010 - 10:52 PM

A former Hennepin County employee who admitted stealing public funds intended for low-income residents was sentenced Wednesday to four years in prison, though she may be confined less than half that time, officials said.

Yolanda Faye Williams, 34, said no when Judge Gary Larson asked her if she had anything to say. She pleaded guilty last month to two counts of aiding and abetting theft of public funds. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to dismiss 12 counts.

In October, Williams and fellow Human Services representative Felicia Bell, 38, were charged with more than three dozen counts of theft by swindle between them. Bell is scheduled to go to trial in July.

They were accused of stealing the identities of clients to arrange fraudulent public rental-assistance payments to five Twin Cities landlords, who then allegedly shared the proceeds with the publicly employed thieves on the inside. The landlords also were charged.

Under a plea agreement, Williams was sentenced to consecutive two-year prison terms. However, Larson executed only one of the sentences. Like most inmates, Williams will be eligible for sentence reduction of one-third for good behavior, meaning she could be released in as few as 16 months.

However, she will be on probation for the duration of her four-year sentence. If she fails to remain law abiding, the remaining sentence could be executed, and she could go back to prison.

Along with the landlords, Williams, of Brooklyn Center, must repay \$30,750 she sent their way. Bell, of Brooklyn Park, was accused of directing \$57,000 to them.

The landlords, who face multiple counts of the same charges, are Keith Joseph McMoore, 34, of Golden Valley; Augustine L. Sylvester, 35, of Minneapolis; Isreal Moses, 37, of Brooklyn Park; Cassell Bobo, 40, of Brooklyn

Advertisement

A large advertisement banner with a blue and yellow color scheme. On the left, there is a yellow chair icon with the number '50' on it, representing 50 years. Text next to it says "ONE SHOW FIFTY YEARS A MILLION LAUGHS" and "Est. 1959". The main text in the center reads "THE SECOND CITY FRIDAY, JUNE 4 ON SALE NOW TICKETMASTER.COM". On the right, the "Mystic LAKE" logo is displayed, with "CASINO • HOTEL" and "mysticlake.com" below it. At the bottom center, it says "Owned and Operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community".

© 2010 Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

ONE SHOW
FIFTY YEARS
A MILLION LAUGHS
Est. 1959

THE SECOND CITY
FRIDAY, JUNE 4
ON SALE NOW TICKETMASTER.COM

Mystic LAKE
CASINO • HOTEL
mysticlake.com

Owned and Operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community



Park, and Tremayne R. Williams, 33, of Brooklyn Center. Tremayne Williams was sentenced to five months in the county workhouse. The other landlords await trials.

The women worked with nearly 500 other employees in the Eligibility Supports area at Century Plaza, 330 S. 12th St. They were put on leave last June. Both had worked more than five years for the county.

Rochelle Olson • 612-673-1747

Advertisement



MYSTIC MEDALLION
\$160,000 IN CASH AND PRIZES!
FRIDAYS, MAY 7 - MAY 28
500 INSTANT WINNERS EACH WEEK!

Mystic LAKE
CASINO • HOTEL
mysticlake.com

Owned and Operated by the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community