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For Immediate Release

February 3, 2020

**BRONX WOMAN SENTENCED FOR STEALING OVER \$100,000
IN HRA AND SNAP BENEFITS
Defendant Pleaded Guilty to Falsifying Business Records;
Must Pay Back Thousands to City of New York**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx woman has been sentenced for stealing over \$100,000 in Human Resources Administration (HRA) benefits and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

District Attorney Clark said, "Throughout the years the defendant illegally collected funds, her husband was working for the New York City Fire Department and the New York City Department of Sanitation. The defendant also failed to disclose that she was working at Domino's Pizza. She stole money that is meant to help those in the most vulnerable situations."

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Eleana Marrero, 32, of Westchester Avenue, Bronx, N.Y., was sentenced today to five years' probation, was ordered to pay back \$30,000 in restitution and received a \$86,963 judgement order of restitution by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Linda Poust-Lopez. Marrero pleaded guilty to first-degree Falsifying Business Records on December 18, 2019.

According to the investigation, between May 2014 and May 2017, the defendant lied about her income in City of New York HRA and SNAP benefit applications and recertifications. In the paperwork, Marrero did not disclose her husband's income, who was a City of New York employee for the FDNY and the NYC Department of Sanitation. The defendant also lied about her income by failing to disclose in applications that she was employed by Domino's Pizza. Marrero stole \$39,590.43 in welfare cash assistance, \$22,736 in SNAP benefits and \$54, 636.74 in Medicaid benefits, totaling \$116,963.17 in stolen funds.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Melanie Smith, of the Economic Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of William Zelenka, Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Tarek Rahman, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division.

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District Attorney Clark thanked her Detective Investigator Nicholas Cavalcanti for his assistance in the case.

District Attorney Clark also thanked Investigator Nyah Paul of the New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General.

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