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57-2025

For Immediate Release

July 16, 2025

**EX-BRONX CO-OP BOARD PRESIDENT PAYS BACK \$120,000
STOLEN FROM 93-YEAR-OLD NEIGHBOR
Defendant Emptied Savings of Victim While She Was in Nursing Home**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a former Bronx Co-Op Board president has paid more than \$120,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to stealing from a 93-year-old woman who entrusted her with her checkbook.

District Attorney Clark said, “This defendant took advantage of a 93-year-old woman in the hospital, who struggled to read and write in English. The victim asked the defendant, who was the president of her co-op board, to write the checks for maintenance payments while she was sick. Consumed with greed, the defendant stole this vulnerable woman’s life savings.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Majia-Leena Frayer, 74, of St. Petersburg, Florida pleaded guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the fourth degree on May 21, 2025. The defendant was sentenced today to three years conditional discharge by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Timothy Lewis. As part of the plea agreement the defendant has paid restitution in the amount of \$120,263.

According to the investigation, the victim was a tenant at Varma Cooperative Home at 828 Gerard Avenue, where Frayer also lived and served as co-op board president. The victim, who did not speak English, relied on Frayer to help her write monthly maintenance checks to the co-op board. In February 2021, when the victim entered hospital care, the defendant started writing checks against the account. When the victim went to a nursing home, Frayer wrote checks over the next seven months



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for more than \$120,000. The victim passed away in November 2023. Her nephew and heir, who alerted authorities to the fraud, has inherited her assets.

The case was prosecuted by Melanie Smith, Major Case Assistant District Attorney of the Financial Frauds Bureau, under the supervision of Eugene Bykov, Supervisor in the Financial Frauds Bureau, Michelle Milanes, Deputy Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau, and Herman Wun, Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked BXDA Principal Accountant Investigator James Antonino, Trial Preparation Assistant Diane Morgan, BXDA Senior Investigator Brendan Hammond, Lieutenant Vincent Cantarella (retired), Peter Holness, Deputy Chief of the Detective Investigators, and Frank Chiara, Chief of Detective Investigators, for their work on the investigation.

District Attorney Clark thanked NYPD Criminalist Level IV Dr. Melvin Shaw, and NYPD Detectives Daniel Angen, Sandy Nunez, and Christopher Persaud of the Bronx DA Squad for their work on the case.