

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

In the Matter of:

JOSEPH LIPARI,

Respondent.

HUDALJ 92-1879-DB(S)

**INITIAL DETERMINATION AND ORDER**

This proceeding arose pursuant to 24 C.F.R. Sec. 24.100 *et seq.* as a result of action taken by the General Deputy Assistant Secretary, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD" or "the Department" or "the Government") on June 12, 1992, temporarily suspending Respondent from further participation in primary covered transactions and lower tier-covered transactions as either a participant or a principal at HUD and throughout the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and from participating in procurement contracts. The action was based on an indictment of Respondent in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey for conspiracy, bribery, extortion, and tax evasion. Respondent requested a hearing regarding his suspension.

Section 24.313(b)(2)(ii) of the Department's regulations (24 C.F.R. Sec. 24.313(b)(2)(ii)) provides that where, as here, a suspension is based upon an indictment, the hearing is limited to submission of documentary evidence and written briefs. On August 25, 1992, the Government therefore was ordered to file a brief stating the grounds for the action on or before September 24, 1992, and Respondent was ordered to file his brief in opposition stating the grounds for any defenses or mitigating circumstances on or before October 25, 1992. The Government has filed its brief, but Respondent has not.


On November 5, 1992, the Government moved for issuance of an initial determination based on Respondent's failure to file a brief as ordered. Respondent has not filed a response to the Government's motion. By failing to respond to the Government's motion, Respondent has consented to the granting of the motion. *See* 24 C.F.R. Sec. 26.13(c).

Respondent's failure to obey the Order of August 25, 1992, constitutes grounds for issuance of a determination against him. *See* 24 C.F.R. Sec. 26.3. Furthermore, the Government's letter of June 12, 1992, notifying Respondent of his suspension constituted a complaint. *See* 24 Sec. 26.10(c). The allegations in that complaint must be deemed admitted because Respondent has not specifically denied them. *See* 24 C.F.R. Sec. 26.11.

Respondent is a "participant" within the meaning of 24 C.F.R. Sec. 24.105. An indictment for conspiracy, bribery, extortion, and tax evasion constitutes adequate evidence of cause to suspend a participant. *See* 24 C.F.R. Secs. 24.305(a), 405(a), and 405(b).

Accordingly, I find and determine that good cause existed on June 12, 1992, to suspend Respondent from further participation in primary covered transactions and lower tier-covered transactions as either a participant or a principal at HUD and throughout the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and from participating in procurement contracts with HUD pending resolution of an indictment issued against Respondent in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey and pending any legal, debarment or Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act proceedings which may ensue.

It is so ORDERED.

  
THOMAS C. HEINZ  
Administrative Law Judge

Dated: November 17, 1992.