

New York Assemblywoman Indicted on 11 Counts of Fraud, Witness Tampering

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New York State Assemblywoman Pamela Harris has been indicted on 11 counts of fraud and tampering. She is accused of defrauding numerous federal and local government entities.

The indictments include two counts of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, four counts of making false statements, two counts of bank fraud, and one count of witness tampering and one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice, CBS New York [reported](#).



Harris is accused of defrauding the New York City Council, the city's Department of Youth and Community Development, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the city's Build it Back Program and the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York. The alleged behavior took place between 2011 and 2016.

The assemblywoman spent \$10,000 of stolen funds on vacation getaways—covering airline and cruise tickets for the politician and her husband—according to the 21-page federal indictment. She further used other funds to pay her lingerie tab at Victoria's Secret, New York Daily News [reported](#).

"As alleged in the indictment, the defendant defrauded government agencies out of tens of thousands of dollars in public funds and tried to fraudulently obtain even more," stated United States Attorney Richard Donoghue.

"She conducted her schemes victimizing the federal and New York City governments, and then obstructed federal investigation into her crimes while a sitting New York State Assemblywoman. When she learned that law enforcement was investigating her various fraud schemes, she pressured witnesses to lie to the police to cover them up. This Office and our law enforcement partners are committed to ensuring that those who serve the public are held accountable under the law to the same extent as the people they are privileged to serve," he added.

New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) Commissioner Mark G. Peters described the charges as being a result of "brazen corruption."

"The brazen corruption charged as a result of this investigation tramples on the very definition of a public servant," stated Peters. "This elected official exploited the public she was elected to serve by stealing City and federal programs and then concealing the fraud with false statements and asking witnesses to obstruct the investigation, according to the indictment."

As NBC New York [points out](#), despite the fact Harris's biography calls her a "vocal advocate" for Hurricane Sandy relief efforts, part of the money she allegedly stole was money designated for FEMA relief efforts.

UPDATE 1:08 PM: This piece was updated to include additional details of how Harris allegedly used stolen funds.

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