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# Housing Affairs Letter

In Our 35th Year...

THE WEEKLY WASHINGTON REPORT ON HOUSING

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## ANALYSIS

### IG AUDITOR REPLACES DUNLAP IN M.F. HOUSING

In a move that raises eyebrows and triggers debate at the department, HUD removes Deputy Ass't Sec'y Helen Dunlap from her multifamily housing post and replaces her with the chief auditor in the Inspector General's Office.

While HUD officials deny any connection, the action comes in the wake of an intensive IG audit of the Office of Housing's multifamily auction program, first reported on page one in the Nov. 3 *Housing Affairs Letter*.

In what HUD describes as a promotion but a high-level department source calls a demotion, Dunlap becomes deputy assistant secretary for Office of Housing operations, a less-demanding post.

Replacing her as deputy assistant secretary for multifamily housing is John (Chris) Greer, assistant inspector general for audit operations since July 1989. Greer was in charge of the ongoing IG investigation of possible favoritism in the multifamily auction program.

Philip Salamone, former deputy assistant secretary for operations, becomes a special assistant to Ass't Sec'y for Housing/Fed'l Housing Commissioner Retsinas.

Announced by Retsinas, the changes are effective today.

The high-level HUD source tells HAL Dunlap "made many enemies after joining the department as a member of the Clinton transition team in 1993."

He says she virtually ignored Retsinas, behaving as if she were the federal housing commissioner. And if offending Retsinas weren't enough, she replaced many Office of Housing employees with "persons of her own choice," he says.

The source says some of the angry staffers dumped by Dunlap apparently complained to Inspector Gen'l Gaffney about possible irregularities in the multifamily auction program, thus prompting the present investigation. (Because it's ongoing, neither Gaffney nor Retsinas will comment on the audit.)

While those developments contributed to her plight, the source says her fate was finally sealed when she alienated certain White House personnel with her uncompromising positions on housing policy.

"That allowed Retsinas to make changes he had wanted to make for sometime," he adds.

As for HUD's description of Dunlap's transfer as a promotion, the source says her new post involves fewer responsibilities and doesn't require Senate okay. "It is not a promotion. It's a demotion."

Whatever the case, Retsinas issues a statement praising Dunlap for her accom-