



SIGTARP

Office of the Special Inspector General
for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

Martin Enterprises

In October 2018, the Justice Department resolved a SIGTARP investigation of Martin Enterprises, Inc. (“Martin”) under the False Claims Act given that the business closed. Martin paid the federal government \$30,508 for fraudulently billed claims and a \$30,508 penalty. It also paid the City of Fort Wayne \$800,000 for the cost to excavate and remove all of the construction debris and replace with approved fill dirt, and for other damages.

SIGTARP’s investigation found that Martin fraudulently submitted claims for TARP dollars for demolitions in Fort Wayne, Indiana under TARP’s Hardest Hit Fund Blight Elimination Program. From 2014 to 2016, the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana awarded all of the demolition contracts under the TARP program to Martin who was paid \$2 million. Martin dumped construction debris into the demolition hole, covered it with a layer of clean dirt, and falsely billed the TARP program as if it had filled the hole with clean fill dirt. At the announcement of the resolution, Special Inspector Goldsmith Romero said “dumping of potentially contaminated building material on blighted properties by the only Hardest Hit Fund-paid demolition contractor in Fort Wayne put residents and communities at risk while fleecing Taxpayers.”

The United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Indiana was the Justice Department office involved in the investigation.