Purchase of property improved with public funds eyed

By The Associated Press

BOSSIER CITY — The streets superintendent in Bossier City has made a tenfold profit on property condemned by the department that his daughter runs.

The FBI and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are investigating Pete Glorioso's purchase of property improved with public money and administered by community development directors Pam Glorioso.

CBI agents took about 60 files from her office last month, including dealings with property her father bought and how HUD grant money was spent.

Pam Glorioso, whose department oversees property standards, acknowledged she twice put her father in touch with people who had called about substandard property bought.

He bought one plot for $500 and sold it for $5,000.

He bought the other for $1,500, made some improvements and sold it for $22,000.

Pete Glorioso was unavailable for immediate comment. His office took a message and said he would call back.

The Shreveport Times reported that city and real estate records show that Pete Glorioso bought property twice in 1982 shortly after the Department of Community Development declared buildings on the land substandard.

The city, which spent $40,000 on HUD grants on demolition last year, had spent $3,400 to demolish two buildings on adjacent parcels before Pete Glorioso's house before he bought the land for $7,000.

He has not sold that land.

The second, the $500 purchase, he bought after the owner spent $1,500 to demolish two houses. That lot was about a block from the Glorioso homes, which are next door to each other.

The former owner, Dolores Sawyer of Arlington, Texas, said she had been unable to sell the houses she inherited from her mother.

After Bossier City notified her that she had to fix up the yard down the street, she said, she called the Department of Community Development and told Pam Glorioso that she would like to donate the land to the city.

"She said, 'I don't know if the city would want it, but my dad lives on that street, and he might be interested in buying it if you are interested in selling it,'" Sawyer said.

She quoted Pam Glorioso as saying her father would pay $500 for the lot.

Pam Glorioso said she did not recall such a conversation.

"I acted as head of Community Development when I put her in touch with the contractor," she said.

"From that point, I don't know. Perhaps I was a middleman; I'm not going to deny that."

"But I do not consider it a conflict of the block grant because no block grant funds were utilized," the land Pete Glorioso bought for $3,500 had not been condemned, but his daughter said it had been repeatedly vandalized, and the owner had asked if she knew of any potential buyers.

She put him in touch with her father, she said.

Under HUD rules, neither people with authority over grant money nor anyone in their immediate families should have a financial interest in or make a profit from the projects on which the grants are used.

Pam Glorioso said she did not see any conflict of interest in telling her father if someone wanted to sell substandard property.