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## **In Leningrad Region head of Morozov administration held on suspicion of office abuse and fraud**

The Leningrad Region Office of the Investigative Committee has held head of Morozov town administration of Vsevolzhsk District, Leningrad Region Yelena Solovyova as part of an investigation in abuse of office under Part 1 of Article 286 and fraud on a very large scale under Part 4 of Article 159 of the RF Penal Code.

Preliminary investigation has revealed that in 2015, the suspect and other persons illegally changed a town-building map of the town of Morozov. 15 ha of land located along the Neva river, part of which was a recreation area and another part belonged to the Morozov Forestry, became agricultural land. Those changes made it possible for the said area to be allocated for gardening as well as construction of housing.

On 3 August 2015, by the decision of the administration's head the said area was given to Oreshek gardening community free of charge. Members of the said community divided the area into more than 100 plots with more than 38 million rubles. Significantly, members of the gardening community were former or current officials of the Morozov town administration, their relatives and friends, who got the plots on lease with the right to buy them at reduced prices.

The said illegal actions violated rights of citizens on the use of the land for recreational purposes and violated the order for the use of forestry's lands.

By now, the investigators have searched the offices and residences of the persons involved in the crime, are seizing documents and questioning witnesses. Other investigative operations are underway to find out all the circumstances surrounding the crime.

The investigators have also asked courts to suspend the suspect from her office. The investigation is ongoing.

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