



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**DOI ARRESTS SEVEN INDIVIDUALS ON DEFRAUDING THE CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY OF APPROXIMATELY \$121,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrests of seven recipients of public housing benefits, in separate cases, on charges of concealing their household composition and income and defrauding the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") of approximately \$121,079. Three individuals were arrested today and are being prosecuted by the office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting another four individuals, three were arrested last week and one was arrested last month.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "People who falsify documents to obtain public housing subsidies get themselves into serious trouble. What may look like an easy way around the rules turns out to be a paper trail to a criminal prosecution. Housing fraud hurts everyone involved, including eligible families waiting for benefits."

Today, DOI arrested the following three Queens residents: SHEILA BRAZZLEY, 54, of the Astoria section; FABIANA GREEN, 40, of the Hollis section; and KIMBERLY WILLIAMS, 40, of the South Jamaica section. Each defendant has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and various counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, which are class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison. The following accounts are according to each defendant's criminal complaint:

- Between August 2007 and October 2009, BRAZZLEY lived in NYCHA's Astoria Houses and paid rent that was determined, in part, by the income and household composition that she reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found that on Affidavits of Income submitted to NYCHA, BRAZZLEY did not report that another individual who earned income lived in the apartment during that time. As a result of these misrepresentations, the investigation found, BRAZZLEY defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$12,342.
- Between August 2004 and September 2008, GREEN was a recipient of Section 8 subsidies for a privately owned apartment in Queens, in which NYCHA paid a rental subsidy directly to the landlord and the defendant paid the difference between the actual rent and the Section 8 subsidy. The rental subsidies are determined, in part, by the income and household composition that GREEN reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found that on Affidavits of Income submitted to NYCHA, GREEN concealed that her husband lived with her and that he earned income during that time. As a result of these misrepresentations, the investigation found, GREEN defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$28,361 in Section 8 rental subsidies.
- Between June 2006 and October 2009, WILLIAMS was a recipient of Section 8 subsidies from NYCHA for a privately owned apartment in Queens. DOI's investigation found that on Affidavits of Income submitted to NYCHA, WILLIAMS concealed that she received income from her job as a medical assistant. As a result of these misrepresentations, the investigation found, WILLIAMS defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$19,270 in Section 8 rental subsidies.

On Wednesday, December 2, 2009, DOI arrested the following three Brooklyn residents: CECELIA PALMER, 49, who is also known as Cecelia Davis, of the Crown Heights section, an employee of the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA"), and RENA MORANT, 69, and her daughter MARILYN MORANT, 32, both of the Coney Island section. Each has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and various counts of Falsifying Business

Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. The following accounts are according to the defendants' criminal complaints:

- Between January 2007 and November 2008, PALMER was a recipient of Section 8 subsidies from NYCHA for a privately owned apartment in Brooklyn. DOI's investigation found that PALMER filed false statements with NYCHA in which she claimed that her only income in 2006 and 2007 was \$150 to \$250 per week, respectively, as a babysitter when in fact she was employed at HRA and received income of \$41,096 and \$47,279, respectively, during those years. As a result of these misrepresentations, the investigation found, PALMER defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$18,957 in Section 8 subsidies.

PALMER, who was employed by the City under the name Cecelia Davis, began working at HRA in August 1994 and most recently was a Principal Administrative Associate receiving an annual salary of approximately \$45,978.

- Between June 2002 and April 2008, RENA B. MORANT and her daughter, MARILYN MORANT, were residing in an apartment in NYCHA's Surfside Gardens public housing development in Brooklyn and their rent was determined, in part, on the income and household composition they reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found that MARILYN MORANT's employment and income as a cashier was not reported to NYCHA. As a result of this misrepresentation, the investigation found, the MORANTS defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$24,434.

On November 9, 2009, DOI arrested JANET WILSON, 62, of the Coney Island section of Brooklyn, on charges of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, punishable upon conviction by up to seven years in prison, and three counts each of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, which are class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison. The following is the account according to the criminal complaint:

- Between November 2003 and July 2007, WILSON received Section 8 subsidies from NYCHA for a privately owned apartment in Brooklyn. DOI's investigation found that on Affidavits of Income submitted to NYCHA, WILSON concealed her income of between \$18,499 and \$24,236 as an employee of a not-for-profit agency. As a result of these misrepresentations, DOI's investigation found, WILSON defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$17,715.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, HRA Commissioner Robert Doar, Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and their staffs for their assistance on this investigation.

These investigations were conducted by DOI's Acting Inspector General for NYCHA Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Deputy Inspector Generals Anthony Capek and Bergia Telesford, Assistant Inspectors General Suzanne Vitti and Robin Jacknow, Chief Investigator Ivonne Alvarado-DeJesus, Special Investigator Virginia Arana, Confidential Investigator Martin Lintner, and Deputy Counsel Lauren Hintz.

Assistant District Attorney Rosemary Buccheri of the Queens County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the BRAZZLEY, GREEN and WILLIAMS cases.

The Kings County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the remaining four cases: Assistant District Attorney Joshua Lee is prosecuting the MORANTS' cases; Assistant District Attorney Michael Eskenazi is prosecuting the PALMER case; and Assistant District Attorney Adam Koelsch is prosecuting the WILSON case.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

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