



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER



80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**CITY EMPLOYEE AND HER MOTHER, A RETIRED CITY TEACHER, ARE CHARGED
WITH STEALING \$77,567 IN SECTION 8 SUBSIDIES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced that a City employee and her mother, a retired City teacher, were arrested today and charged with stealing \$77,567 in Section 8 rent subsidies from the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD"). DOI's investigation revealed that in 2006 the defendants applied for the subsidies as tenant and landlord, denied they were related, and provided an altered deed for the mother's Brooklyn house, which, like their applications, identified the supposed landlord by a name other than that recorded on the official deed, according to the criminal complaint. By concealing their relationship, the defendants for six years collected rent subsidies for the daughter to reside in her mother's house, which would not have been approved by HPD, according to the complaint. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Public housing subsidies are not prizes awarded for the most ingenious deception. Deliberately misrepresenting facts to obtain these benefits is a crime and an abuse of these taxpayer-supported programs."

HPD Commissioner Mathew M. Wambua said, "While incidents such as this pain us deeply as an agency, we have zero tolerance for people who seek to skirt the rules and we thank DOI for their thorough investigative work. HPD's Section 8 program is the fourth largest in the nation and our employees take great care in serving the needs of thousands of their clients day in and day out. HPD is made up of dedicated and committed public servants and the actions of this individual in no way represent the character or actions of the vast majority."

EFURU DOCKERY, 40, and JANICE JENNINGS (AKA AYESHA ABDULLAH), 62, both of Brooklyn, are each charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and Conspiracy in the Fourth Degree a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

According to the complaint, DOCKERY was a Section 8 recipient who in January 2006 submitted to HPD a request to reside in a Section 8-subsidized apartment in Brooklyn, indicating the owner of the property was "Ayesha Abdullah" and certifying that the owner was not a "parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister or brother of any member of the family ..." The owner of the property, who signed as "Ayesha Abdullah," also certified in a separate statement that the tenant, DOCKERY, was not related to her. As part of that package, a deed was submitted indicating Abdullah was the owner of the property. DOI's investigation found that the official deed for the property conveys title to JANICE JENNINGS, who is DOCKERY's mother according to DOCKERY's birth certificate. HPD's Section 8 rules state that a child cannot receive housing assistance benefits while residing in a unit owned by a parent unless specifically approved by HPD to accommodate a person with a disability. As a result of the defendants'

misrepresentations, between 2006 and 2012, HPD was defrauded approximately \$77,567. DOCKERY's Section 8 subsidies have been terminated.

DOCKERY was an Administrative Assistant at the City Administration for Children's Services from August 2004 to June 2011, and left that month to work at HPD, where she is a Principal Administrative Assistant receiving an annual salary of approximately \$45,979. JENNINGS was employed as a teacher with the DOE from September 1988 to September 2011, when she retired. At the time of her retirement, JENNINGS was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$96,154.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and HPD Commissioner Mathew M. Wambua and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for HPD.

Assistant District Attorney Lawrence Oh of the Kings County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Chief of the Rackets Bureau Michael Vecchione.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. 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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