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DOI STATEMENT ON CONVICTION OF CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANT FOR THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY
--Conviction follows a bench trial in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement today on the federal conviction of a tenant of a New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") development in Brooklyn for filing false statements with NYCHA and concealing income and property ownership, thereby defrauding NYCHA of more than \$36,000. U.S. District Judge Denise L. Cote convicted JULIENNE SIALEU, 52, today of Theft of Government Funds. In March 2011, following a bench trial, Judge Cote convicted SIALEU of four counts of False Statements in connection with the same housing fraud case. SIALEU, who was arrested in January 2010, is expected to be sentenced July 15, 2011. DOI investigated the case, and the office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted it.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's conviction delivers the decisive message that bilking the City's housing programs has serious consequences. This defendant is now a convicted felon facing possible prison time. Housing fraud is a crime that drains limited resources and takes much-needed housing assistance from eligible individuals. DOI continues to work with its law enforcement partners to target and halt the abuse."

Today's conviction follows DOI's announcement last week that it had arrested 20 individuals so far in 2011 on housing fraud charges. Concealing income and occupants to increase the amount of public housing subsidies, illegal subletting of a NYCHA apartment, and fraudulently collecting dual government housing subsidies from NYCHA and the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, are among the housing fraud schemes DOI uncovered. The release on those cases can be found at the following link:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/mar11/pr21housing_33111.pdf.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, NYPD Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, and their staffs, for their assistance in the SIALEU investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin Anderson.

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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