



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

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

Release #01-2012
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

DOI COMMISSIONER APPOINTS NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the promotion of Kevin R. Smith to the position of Inspector General of the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”), which is the largest housing authority in the country. Smith began his law enforcement career at DOI more than 30 years ago and has spent the past 18 years within DOI’s Housing Authority Inspector General Office, most recently as the Acting Inspector General of NYCHA since August 2011. Smith has worked on investigations throughout his career that have resulted in prosecutions, financial recoveries for NYCHA, and procedural recommendations for improvements of practices and procedures.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Kevin Smith is widely regarded as experienced and effective, with a track record of accomplishment. His in-depth knowledge of NYCHA’s operations coupled with his investigative skills will serve him well as Inspector General. In making this appointment, I discussed the matter with Chairman John Rhea who is in full accord.”

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea said, “We are pleased that Kevin Smith has been named Inspector General for NYCHA. He is a thorough professional whose leadership and oversight will be of great importance to NYCHA.”

Smith received his law degree from New York Law School and started working at DOI in its Office of Inspector General for the City Human Resources Administration. In the early 1990s, he moved to DOI’s Office of Inspector General for NYCHA where he garnered broad legal and investigative experience involving NYCHA and was promoted four times within the Inspector General Office to today’s appointment. Smith has been involved in or overseen housing fraud investigations that have resulted in more than 510 arrests and nearly \$4 million in restitution collected since 2002. He was also instrumental in the conception and establishment of a database match that identifies individuals illegally obtaining housing benefits by using information from deceased public housing tenants. This database match has been incorporated as part of a battery of frontend checks of tenants that ensure benefits only go to eligible individuals.

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.

DOI’s press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.