



The City of New York
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DOI STATEMENT ON 90-DAY JAIL SENTENCE IN HOUSING FRAUD CONVICTION

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on a tax preparer sentenced to 90 days in jail, followed by five years of probation, for forging a tax return and pay stubs to help an ineligible applicant fraudulently obtain a low-income apartment sponsored by the City Housing Development Corporation ("HDC"). The housing applicant was actually a DOI undercover investigator and the investigation found that the defendant, JOHN MOFUS, a.k.a. John Mofunanya, falsified the documents for a fee. MOFUS, 48, pleaded guilty in March 2011 to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and was sentenced today by Judge Ronald A. Zweibel in Manhattan Supreme Court. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., prosecuted the case, which was assigned to Assistant District Attorney Savvas Diacosavvas.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant who abandoned his professional duty and sold his integrity must now face the serious consequences of his criminal conduct. This prison sentence delivers the important message that housing fraud is a risky scheme leading to arrest, conviction, and time in jail. DOI continues to work with the Manhattan District Attorney to combat this pernicious crime that robs valuable resources from the City's affordable housing program."

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., said, "Affordable housing is a valuable and finite resource in New York City. If the defendant's crime had succeeded, he would have deprived a deserving family of a place to live. This Office will continue to help the City guard its resources, in cases both large and small."

The press release on the arrest can be found at the following link:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr71mofunanya10_04_2010.pdf.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and HDC President Marc Jahr, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

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

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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