



The City of New York
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**EMPLOYEE OF CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION IS CHARGED WITH
FALSIFYING INCOME TO OBTAIN SUBSIDIZED HOUSING THROUGH
THE CITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

-- This is DOI's third arrest of an HRA employee since November 2007 on housing fraud charges--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of SIMEON SIYANBOLA, an HRA employee, who was charged with falsifying his income and forging his supervisor's signature to qualify for a low-income apartment developed through the New York City Housing Development Corporation's ("HDC") Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program.

SIYANBOLA, 48, of the Bronx, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. If convicted, SIYANBOLA faces up to seven years in prison.

SIYANBOLA has worked at the New York City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") since 2004. Currently, he is a caseworker earning approximately \$37,189 annually.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI checks the income of City employees applying for HDC-subsidized apartments. City employees should know that providing false information on these applications not only jeopardizes their job but also means they may face arrest and prosecution. Thankfully, in this case, DOI's investigation was able to ensure the integrity of an HDC-financed program."

HDC's Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program is an HDC-financed program in which building owners agree to provide reduced rent apartments for low-income individuals in exchange for low-interest mortgages through HDC. In order to apply for a unit, individuals must submit an application and be selected through a housing lottery. If the applicant appears to be income eligible for an apartment, the individual is asked to provide further information and proof of annual income and family composition. Municipal employees are given a preference in HDC-sponsored housing lotteries, with a certain percentage of units set aside for them.

Today's arrest is DOI's third in the past two months of an HRA employee on allegations of housing fraud at an HDC-related housing development and it is part of a proactive initiative by DOI to verify that all City employees are properly reporting their incomes to HDC when applying for low-

income housing. In this case, DOI checked the New York City Payroll Management System and determined that SIYANBOLA's annual income was \$37,189 at the time he applied for the apartment.

The DOI investigation found that SIYANBOLA was applying for an HDC-regulated apartment in the Bronx. The income restrictions for this apartment were between \$30,082 and \$34,020 annually.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that SIYANBOLA submitted a document to HDC indicating his annual salary was approximately \$32,000. As an employee of HRA, SIYANBOLA was earning approximately \$37,000 annually. The investigation also found that SIYANBOLA forged someone else's name on another document. SIYANBOLA later admitted that he falsified his income and signed someone else's name to the employment verification form.

Since November 2007, DOI has made the following arrests of HRA employees on housing fraud charges in connection with apartments in which HDC administers Section 8 rental subsidies. Section 8 is a federal government program for helping low-income individuals to afford housing in the private market. Both of these cases are being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York:

- On November 30, 2007, HRA employee EVELYN MEDAL was charged with the theft of approximately \$41,000 in Section 8 housing subsidies administered by HDC between 2003 and 2007. According to the criminal complaint, MEDAL obtained higher Section 8 subsidies after failing to report to HDC that she earned income from her work at HRA and submitting false papers to HDC indicating she was employed as a babysitter.
- On January 10, 2008, HRA employee JEAN BOWLES was charged with the theft of Section 8 funds for receiving housing subsidies between 2001 and 2007 in excess of \$1,000 to which she was not entitled.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanks the staff of HDC for their assistance and cooperation in these investigations.

These investigations were conducted by HDC Inspector General Joseph P. Piazza, Special Counsel Catherine Riccards and Chief Investigator Belarminia Ortiz, with the assistance of Special Investigator Anthony DeLeo under the supervision of Pat Russo, Inspector General for DOI's Public Assistance and Grants Unit.

The case against SIYANBOLA is being prosecuted by the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

Criminal complaints and indictments 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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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**