



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #047-2003
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE
SETS OFF FIRE ALARM IN 30-STORY BUILDING**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and TINO HERNADEZ, Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"), today announced the arrest of BENNIE MOORE, a NYCHA employee assigned to the mailroom at NYCHA's headquarters at 250 Broadway, Manhattan, for falsely setting off a fire alarm in the 30-story building.

MOORE, 47, a NYCHA employee since 1989, and a resident of NYCHA's Sumner Houses, has been charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree and Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, both Class A Misdemeanors. If convicted, he faces a maximum of one year in jail.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This kind of reckless act, committed in the middle of the day in a busy office building, is very serious and will not be tolerated."

Chairman Hernandez said, "The Housing Authority is very appreciative of the swift action by DOI in pursuing Moore. His actions were disruptive to the work of NYCHA and created a potentially dangerous situation for his fellow workers."

According to the complaint filed in the Manhattan criminal court, on September 4, 2003, at about 3 p.m., Moore was observed on video security surveillance equipment pulling a fire alarm on the fourth floor of NYCHA's headquarters, which is across the street from City Hall. The alarm sounded throughout the 30-story building, which also houses the offices of the New York City Council, and emergency personnel responded. An investigation revealed that there was no fire, or any other emergency, warranting Moore's pulling of the fire alarm.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's General Services Department and its Facility Security Unit for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation. Steven A. Pasichow, DOI's Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA's Inspector General and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Steven Gruberger, Assistant Inspector General Yu Sing Yee, and Special Investigator Frank Carubia conducted the investigation. The case is being prosecuted by the New York County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*