



The City of New York
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THREE INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING A POLICE OFFICER, ARRESTED IN A MORTGAGE FRAUD SCHEME

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrests of three individuals, including a New York City Police Officer, in a charged mortgage fraud scheme. This multi-agency investigation uncovered a fraudulent deed for a house in Brooklyn, which, together with other false documents, was used to obtain mortgage funds of \$600,000 that were distributed to the three defendants, according to the federal criminal complaint. DOI, the Criminal Investigations Bureau of the New York State Banking Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Secret Service and the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") worked together on this complex investigation. The office of Benton J. Campbell, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, is prosecuting the case.

ONEIKA CARTHON, 34, of Brooklyn; JOE D. GREEN, 36, of Jamaica, Queens; and SAMANTHA GIRARD, 34, of Roosevelt, N.Y., have each been charged with the federal crime of Bank Fraud. Upon conviction, this offense is punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

GIRARD has been an NYPD officer since March 2000 and receives an annual salary of approximately \$76,488. She has been on modified duty since February 2007 and was suspended today.

ROSE GILL HEARN, DOI Commissioner, said, "The defendants concocted a charade using a phony deed to steal \$600,000, according to the charges. Once the matter was reported to DOI, we worked with our law enforcement partners to expose the scam and call those responsible to account."

RICHARD H. NEIMAN, Superintendent of Banks for New York State, said, "This case exemplifies the worst type of criminal activity because it involves a sophisticated scheme designed to steal an innocent victim's home, and to defraud a bank out of \$600,000. I applaud the work of the Department of Investigation and our other law enforcement partners that assisted in this investigation and look forward to continuing to aggressively pursue individuals like these defendants that abuse our financial systems for their personal gain."

RONALD J. VERROCHIO, Inspector In Charge of the New York Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, said, "Postal Inspectors are committed to preserving the confidence of the mail, especially during the surge of investigations into the crime of mortgage fraud. We are happy to work with other Federal, State, and Local authorities to arrest and prosecute those that use the mail as a tool to further their schemes."

BRIAN G. PARR, Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service New York Field Office, said, "The success of this investigation is a direct result of the collaborative efforts between the Secret Service and our federal and local law enforcement partners."

According to the criminal complaint:

This investigation began when a woman told DOI that a fraudulent deed filed with the City Department of Finance ("DOF") purported to have transferred her family's Brooklyn house from her deceased father to a man unknown to her family. The investigation found irregularities in that deed, including the incorrect spelling of the deceased father's name

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and a signature that did not match his known signature. Later, CARTHON, with the assistance of GREEN, applied for and obtained two mortgages totaling \$600,000 supposedly to finance the purchase of the home from the man who had purportedly acquired it from the deceased homeowner. The investigation found that on those applications CARTHON inflated her salary and assets and used an altered life insurance statement.

CARTHON and GREEN were present at the September 2006 closing, where Green presented a phony stipulation indicating that a civil action contesting the transfer of the Brooklyn property had been discontinued. In addition, a man purporting to be the original homeowner was present. In fact, the original homeowner had been deceased for more than a year.

At the closing, approximately \$511,500 from the two mortgages was distributed to the three defendants through checks that were later altered. They include a \$170,516 check altered to make GIRARD the payee, which was deposited into her bank account from which she withdrew and transferred funds. The investigation also found that proceeds from the mortgages were used for, among other purposes, the following: \$41,000 was used to pay off a mortgage on a property in Florida and \$79,000 to pay off a mortgage on a house in Jamaica, N.Y., both managed by GREEN; and \$23,000 was paid on CARTHON's car loan with BMW.

Only three monthly payments were ever made on the fraudulently obtained mortgages, which are in default.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Benton J. Campbell, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; Richard H. Neiman, Superintendent of Banks for New York State, and Gia Morris, Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigations Bureau with the New York State Banking Department; Ronald J. Verrochio, Inspector in Charge of the New York Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service; Brian G. Parr, Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service New York Field Office; David M. Frankel, DOF Commissioner and Raymond W. Kelly, NYPD Commissioner, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOF, in particular, Confidential Investigator Theresa Siame under the supervision of Inspector General Faisal Khan and Deputy Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo.

Assistant United States Attorney Daniel D. Brownell from the office of the U.S. Attorney Office for the Eastern District of New York is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. 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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