



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS TWO BRONX RESIDENTS CHARGED IN SEPARATE CASES
WITH HOUSING FRAUDS TOTALING MORE THAN \$55,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of MAYRA MUNDO and NORMA SANTANA, both of the Bronx, on charges of concealing household occupants and household income from the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"). As a result, NYCHA paid \$35,992 in rent subsidies on MUNDO's behalf, which MUNDO was not eligible to receive, and SANTANA underpaid her rent and defrauded NYCHA by \$19,572.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "In today's economic climate, public housing funds are more precious than ever and can't be squandered on ineligible individuals who obtain them fraudulently. Today's arrests demonstrate DOI's commitment to protect these taxpayer funds for those truly eligible."

MUNDO, 47, and SANTANA, 63, have each been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, both class D felonies, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. MUNDO faces the additional charges of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree and Welfare Fraud in the Fourth Degree, all class E felonies; and Welfare Fraud in the Fifth Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, MUNDO was a Section 8 NYCHA recipient in the Bronx between November 2003 and October 2007. As part of the Section 8 program, the landlord of MUNDO's privately rented apartment received rent subsidies from NYCHA. The subsidy amount was determined, in part, by information MUNDO provided to NYCHA on her household employment status, income and composition. The investigation found that a second individual was living in MUNDO's apartment and that MUNDO failed to list him and his income on the "Affidavits of Income" she submitted to NYCHA. As a result, between 2003 and 2007, NYCHA paid \$35,992 in rental subsidies on MUNDO's behalf that she was not entitled to receive.

DOI's investigation found that as a result of the misrepresentations, between 2003 and 2007, MUNDO paid monthly rent ranging between \$108 and \$311 when she should have paid \$954.

According to the criminal complaint, NORMA SANTANA resided in an apartment at NYCHA's Throgg's Neck Houses between 2001 and 2004. Her rent was determined, in part, by what she indicated was her

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household composition, income and employment status. The investigation found that a second individual was also living in the apartment, but that SANTANA failed to list him or report his income on the "Affidavits of Income" she filed with NYCHA. As a result, SANTANA underpaid her rent and defrauded NYCHA of \$19,572.

DOI's investigation found that as a result of the household composition and income misrepresentations, between 2001 and 2004, SANTANA paid monthly rent of \$153 when she should have paid \$619.

These investigations were conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Robert J. McSweeney and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, First Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso and Chief Investigator Christopher France.

The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the cases. MUNDO's case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Troiano and SANTANA's case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Graham Van Epps.

Criminal complaints 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.

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