



The City of New York
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**DOI ARRESTS BRONX WOMAN ON CHARGES OF STEALING MORE THAN \$53,000
FROM CITY-ADMINISTERED SECTION 8 AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Bronx woman on charges that she provided false information regarding her income, employment, and dependents, to the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") and the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") and as a result fraudulently obtained more than \$53,000 in Section 8 and public assistance benefits she was not entitled to receive. DOI's investigation began after it was notified that the defendant was working out of state. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "As these charges show, there are serious consequences for purposefully concealing relevant information on housing and public assistance documents filed with the City. Exposing and stopping these charged crimes preserves the funds for those entitled to them."

KYENETTE UNDERWOOD, 38, of the Bronx, was arrested Thursday, February 25, 2010, and charged with Grand Larceny in Second Degree and Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, class C felonies, and Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a class D felony by up to seven years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, between January 2004 and May 2008 UNDERWOOD received public assistance benefits from HRA. The investigation found that the defendant made false statements to HRA related to her income and number of dependents when she recertified for benefits and as a result received more than \$50,000 in public assistance she was not entitled to receive. In addition, between January 2004 and December 2006, UNDERWOOD was a recipient of Section 8 benefits administered through HPD for an apartment in the Bronx. The investigation found that the defendant made false statements related to her income and number of dependents when she recertified and as a result obtained more than \$3,000 in Section 8 benefits she was not entitled to receive.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, HRA Commissioner Robert Doar, HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero, and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Offices of Inspectors General for HPD and HRA, including Inspectors General Peter Zanolin and Pat Russo and Investigators Hamid Beltre and Angie Wells.

Assistant District Attorney Daniel Klein of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution.

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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