



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER SCHOOL TEACHER FOR \$30,000 HOUSING FRAUD**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of TALITA ROBINSON, a former New York City Department of Education teacher, for fraudulently receiving over \$31,000 in government rent subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority for an apartment in Brooklyn.

ROBINSON, 33, of Irvington, N.J., has been charged with Theft of Public Money and Making False Statements. If convicted, she faces up to 10 years in jail.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant has learned the perils of her greedy behavior. Housing scams do not work. DOI investigates these types of cases so that tax payers' money is not wasted and so that those who need and qualify for affordable public housing will receive it."

Investigators determined that from 1995 to 2001 ROBINSON received rent subsidies ranging from \$715 to \$751/month toward her \$849/month rent for apartments in the Stuyvesant Heights and Prospect Heights sections of Brooklyn because she claimed she earned less than \$7,800/year from her employment as a secretary at Tenants of 298 E. Third Street HDFC and needed Section 8 housing benefits to pay her rent. DOI investigators determined that ROBINSON worked as a substitute English teacher for the New York City Department of Education and earned \$36,729 to \$44,200 annually from 1997 to 2000. If ROBINSON accurately reported her income, she would have been ineligible for Section 8 benefits. Instead, she unlawfully received \$31,764 in rent subsidies.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that has resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 306 residents, including 100 City, State and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$6.1 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 240 cases have resulted in convictions and nearly \$3.3 million in court-imposed restitution. Since January 2004, 11 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$200,000 in government housing benefits.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing Department and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General for their assistance in this case.

These investigations were conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin Smith, Assistant Inspector General Bergia Telesford, and Confidential Investigator Patricia Carvajal. The Office of Roslynn R. Mausekopf, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York will prosecute the matter.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.***