



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release # 18-2004
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2004

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DOI ARRESTS CITY EMPLOYEES FOR \$40K HOUSING FRAUD
-- Employees from DOE and DYCD nabbed --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of three current and former residents of the New York City Housing Authority for fraudulently receiving more than \$40,000 in rent subsidies for apartments in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

The defendants – SONORA VINSON, ROSALINDA IRIZARRY and her brother DANIEL IRIZARRY – were charged with Grand Larceny and Filing False Documents. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in jail.

In today's cases, SONORA VINSON, 35, a Paraprofessional with the New York City Department of Education, became a Section 8 tenant in 1996 in East Brooklyn. DOI investigators determined that VINSON vacated in October 2000 the Section 8 apartment, for which she was receiving rent subsidies of over \$800/month, and moved to a house she had purchased with her husband elsewhere in Brooklyn. Rather than report to NYCHA that she had moved to her own home, VINSON allegedly filed documents with NYCHA falsely indicating that she was residing in her Section 8 apartment and needed rent subsidies. As a result, NYCHA continued to pay rent subsidies ranging from \$831/month to \$881/month from November 2000 to July 2002, and lost \$14,423.

ROSALINDA IRIZARRY, 37, the tenant of record in a six-room apartment at NYCHA's Seward Park Extension, and her brother, DANIEL IRIZARRY, 35, currently a New York City Department of Youth and Community Development ("DYCD") Contract Specialist, were charged with unlawfully receiving \$25,808 in rental subsidies from May 1997 through August 2002. DOI found that ROSALINDA failed to report that DANIEL resided in her NYCHA apartment from 1997 to at least 2002. They also failed to report his salary when he worked as a clerk at the New York City Department of Health and the New York City Office of the Mayor and earned anywhere from \$22,487 to approximately \$34,885 a year. As a result, ROSALINDA and DANIEL paid NYCHA rent ranging from \$240 to \$559/month, rather than the \$693/month rent they would have been charged if they had reported DANIEL's presence in the household and his income. Their actions allegedly caused NYCHA to pay more than \$25,808 in unwarranted rent subsidies.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing and Manhattan Borough Management Departments and the United States Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General for their assistance in the investigations and arrests.

These investigations were conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General James Ernst, Assistant Inspectors General James Hylton, Special Investigator John Reatz, and Confidential Investigator and Andre Gorelkin.

The Office of Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Kings County, will prosecute the VINSON case. The Office of Robert M. Morgenthau, District Attorney, New York County, is prosecuting the IRIZARRY cases. ADA Christopher Sanders assigned to 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.