

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

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DOI ARRESTS MAN FOR STEALING \$300,000 BROOKLYN HOME BY FILING A BOGUS DEED WITH THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ("DOF")

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of HUGH MCINTOSH on charges he filed a phony deed with the New York City Department of Finance ("DOF"), which gave him ownership of a house and land ("the Property") in Brooklyn. According to DOF records, the Property was recently sold to a legitimate buyer for \$300,000.

MCINTOSH, 27, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony. He has also been charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, which are class E felonies. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison.

DOI's investigation began after the true owner of the Property contacted DOI to report that MCINTOSH, an individual unknown to her, had filed a phony deed with DOF transferring ownership of her Property to him. The owner was looking to sell the Property when she discovered the phony deed. The owner indicated to DOI that she never met MCINTOSH, did not sell or give the Property to him, or ever give him permission to sign her name on the deed. According to the criminal court complaint, MCINTOSH said he submitted documents to DOF in May 2007 to transfer the Property to himself.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "To try and take away someone's home is an audacious act. This arrest demonstrates DOI's commitment to investigate this kind of fraud and apprehend those who engage in it. Individuals who choose to participate in this type of criminal behavior face serious penalties."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF's Commissioner Martha E. Stark and members of her staff for their assistance and cooperation during this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Finance, Gia Morris, First Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo and Confidential Investigator Kristin Walunas, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Robert Joyce.

Assistant District Attorney Toni Lichtstein from the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.

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