

The City of New York Department of Investigation ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES OF SUBMITTING FORGED MEDICAL NOTES TO EXCUSE WORK ABSENCES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Secretary with the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") on charges of submitting a dozen forged medical notes to NYCHA to justify absences from work. DOI began its investigation after it was notified by NYCHA about discrepancies found in medical notes submitted by the defendant. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

MARIBELLE CARRION, 34, of the Bronx, has been charged with 12 counts each of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Filing fraudulent medical notes is not the way for City employees to take time off from work. City employees need to know that if they engage in this type of criminal conduct they will be held accountable and risk prosecution."

CARRION has been a NYCHA employee since August 2000, is currently a Secretary III assigned to NYCHA's Red Hook West Houses in Brooklyn, and receives an annual salary of approximately \$35,285.

According to the criminal complaint, between November 2006 and January 2008, the defendant submitted 12 medical notes to NYCHA indicating she was absent from work purportedly as a result of medical issues. DOI's investigation found that the notes were fraudulent and included the alteration of previously authentic medical notes.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and their staffs for their assistance in the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Kelvin Jeremiah and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Osa Omoigui and Special Investigator Dorothy Vann.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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