



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS BRONX WOMAN ON CHARGES OF STEALING \$1,195 BY  
CASHING AN ALTERED CHECK ISSUED BY THE CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Bronx woman on charges of cashing a forged Section 8 subsidy check for \$1,195 that was originally issued by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to another payee. DOI began its investigation after it was notified by NYCHA about alterations on the check. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Cashing an altered City-issued check is foolish and illegal. Anyone who thinks this is an easy way to collect cash should know that the City has safeguards in place to root out this kind of fraud and that the consequences include arrest and criminal prosecution."

BERNADETTE MCFALL, 42, of the Bronx, was charged late Wednesday, April 21, 2010, with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, on July 28, 2009, MCFALL cashed a NYCHA Section 8 check at a Manhattan check cashing establishment. DOI's investigation found that the name and date had been altered on the check; that the defendant cashed the check in the amount of \$1,195; and that the defendant did not have permission or authority to possess or cash the check.

The City has security features in place to identify and stop payment on altered City checks and, as a result, did not lose any money in this transaction.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs for their assistance on this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for NYCHA, including Inspector General Kelvin Jeremiah, Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, and Special Investigator Tara Benn.

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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