



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**STATEMENT OF DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN ON GUILTY PLEA
BY FORMER NONPROFIT EXECUTIVE TO EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the guilty plea of HUGH BLACKBURN to the embezzlement of more than \$400,000 in federal funds from two not-for-profits that served low-income children and families. BLACKBURN entered his plea today before U.S. District Judge Paul A. Crotty in Manhattan federal court.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's guilty plea is a warning to every scam artist who sees a publicly-funded nonprofit agency as an easy mark for fast cash. We will expose anyone brazen enough to steal hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars that are supposed to help children and families in our City. I congratulate our colleagues in the U.S. Attorney's Office for this successful prosecution and thank them for their continued commitment to working with DOI to root out all such abuses."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Lev L. Dassin, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and his staffs for their work on this matter.

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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