



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE  
NEW YORK, NY 10038  
212-825-5900

Release #32-2007  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**MONDAY, MAY 7, 2007**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**A FORMER PAINTER ARRESTED BY DOI HAS BEEN SENTENCED  
TO FOUR YEARS IN PRISON FOR STEALING PAINT FROM  
THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today that on May 3, 2007, SEGUNDO MEDINA was sentenced in New York County Supreme Court to four years in prison and three years mandatory post release supervision after he pleaded guilty to Burglary in the Second Degree, a class C violent felony, for his involvement in stealing both New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) paint and paint used by NYCHA contractors.

MEDINA, 48, who is not a NYCHA employee or NYCHA tenant, lives in the Bronx. He was arrested on June 22, 2005 and charged with three counts of Burglary in the Second Degree, a class C Violent Felony. He was also charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D Felony; Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, a class D Felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E Felony, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, a class E Felony. Since the paint shops that MEDINA broke into are within NYCHA residential buildings, he was charged with Burglary in the Second Degree, which includes illegal entry into a dwelling.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, “Stealing NYCHA property is bad enough, but breaking into a residential building violates the sanctity of these residents’ homes. Individuals who commit this type of crime need to know there is a severe punishment waiting for them.”

In 2005, DOI initiated an investigation into numerous burglaries of NYCHA paint shops and theft of paint throughout the City’s housing developments. DOI investigators received a tip from a witness that MEDINA was responsible for the thefts. The investigation determined that MEDINA, who used to work as a painter for numerous NYCHA paint contractors, broke into NYCHA’s Alfred E. Smith Houses and Lillian Wald Houses on the lower east side wearing a painter’s uniform after working hours. He stole over 700 gallons of paint from the NYCHA storage rooms at these developments.

NYCHA and its contractors suffered a monetary loss of more than \$7,000. In addition, the loss of paint inventory inconvenienced the NYCHA tenants scheduled to have their apartments painted.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked the New York Police Department (“NYPD”) Major Case Squad and the NYPD Housing Bureau for their assistance.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Inspector General for NYCHA, Robert J. McSweeney, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, and Assistant Inspector General Anthony Capek.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau prosecuted the case, which was assigned to Assistant District Attorney Scott Leet.

*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.***