



**The City of New York
Department of Investigation**

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**DOI ARRESTS A BRONX WOMAN FOR ALLEGEDLY PROMISING TO PROVIDE HOUSING AUTHORITY
AND PRIVATE APARTMENTS TO EIGHT INDIVIDUALS IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ESTIMATED \$29,000**
--In some cases, woman allegedly posed as NYCHA employee--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of JACQUELINE YORRO who is accused of falsely promising to provide New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and private apartments to eight individuals in exchange for a total of \$29,115. In several cases, YORRO is accused of posing as a housing authority employee, even though she was not employed by NYCHA, and in other cases she is accused of representing that she worked at a Bronx location, which housed a NYCHA office. DOI determined YORRO did not work at that location. In addition, YORRO is accused of posing as a real estate broker, which she was not.

YORRO, 37, of the Bronx, NY, has been arrested on seven counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; one count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI began its investigation after individuals filed complaints in January 2007 with DOI's NYCHA Office of the Inspector General. The complaints alleged that YORRO was failing to complete her duties as a NYCHA employee.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "As these allegations show, this individual thought that by scamming those in need of affordable housing she could make some easy money. But DOI successfully unraveled the scheme. Those who came forward should be commended and prospective participants in programs run by the housing authority should be aware that getting assistance with an application or finding housing does not cost a fee. NYCHA programs are designed for easy access but if individuals have questions they can contact a housing authority employee on site, at the applications office. DOI will continue to aggressively pursue individuals trying to rip-off the system and those in need."

DOI found that YORRO charged eight individuals for services that included securing a NYCHA application and choosing an apartment. She is also accused, in some cases, of collecting two months rent and what she called "gate fees" from prospective tenants or home buyers. In several instances, YORRO falsely portrayed herself as a NYCHA employee who was working in the field and gained the trust of her victims after meeting them at the NYCHA Applications Office at 1 Fordham Plaza in the Bronx. Once at the Applications Office, YORRO merely led the unwitting victims through the process of filing a NYCHA application, which any member of the general public can do on their own.

YORRO continued her scam by showing the victims several publicly listed apartments and private houses in the Bronx and Queens and informing them that they would be able to move into these apartments after paying her the requested fees. One victim was promised enrollment in a fictitious NYCHA program in which prospective home buyers would have 50 percent of their mortgages subsidized by "Section 8" in return for renting to low-income families who receive federal

rental assistance. In all cases, YORRO put off her victims with time delays, excuses and disconnection of her cell phone. Ultimately, she never delivered what she promised, nor did she return the money.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the New York State Division of Parole, in particular Parole Officer Ted Davis, for their assistance.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA, Robert J. McSweeney and members of his staff, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Assistant Inspector General Anthony Capek, Chief Investigator John Reatz and Special Investigator Louis Vega.

The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Senior Assistant District Attorney Richard Baker.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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.

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI directly at (212) 825-5959***