



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 41-2006  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2006**

**CONTACT: KEITH SCHWAM**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**THREE PORT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES ARRESTED  
FOR DEFRAUDING THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

*- Defendants charged with concealing Port Authority employment income  
to fraudulently obtain more than \$60,000 in housing benefits -*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) and ROBERT E. VAN ETEN, Inspector General of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), announced today the arrest of three PANYNJ employees who are New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents or recipients of Section 8 benefits administered by NYCHA. Each employee was found, by way of a computer match of NYCHA tenant and PANYNJ employee records, to have concealed his/her PANYNJ income in order to fraudulently receive subsidized housing benefits from NYCHA. The arrests are a result of a DOI initiative to jointly work with other government entities to detect public employees illegally receiving housing benefits.

BILL DEWITT, DOREEN ROSE, and RENEE TAYLOR, have each been charged with violating NYS Penal Law § 155.35, Grand Larceny in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, a Class D felony, and NYS Penal Law § 175.35, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, a Class E felony. DEWITT and TAYLOR also were charged with related crimes. If convicted, each defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's arrests result from a joint investigation by DOI and the Port Authority Inspector General. The three defendants are Port Authority employees who are charged with deliberately concealing their Port Authority income to obtain public housing benefits from the New York City Housing Authority for which they were not eligible. DOI will continue to cooperate with other government entities, as we did here with the Port Authority, to stop costly abuses of public housing benefits and identify, arrest, and prosecute public employees and others who steal them."

Inspector General Robert E. Van Etten said, "We are pleased to have worked with the New York City Department of Investigation to identify individuals that defrauded the public housing program designed to assist the neediest New Yorkers. These three Port Authority employees hid their public employment from the Housing Authority resulting in their receiving housing subsidies to which they weren't entitled. Any Port Authority employee who defrauds a government program will be investigated and prosecuted.

BILL DEWITT, 35, resident of a 3-room apartment located at 2266 Andrews Avenue, Bronx, New York, was found to have concealed from NYCHA his employment with the Port Authority while receiving Section 8 rent subsidies. On Affidavits of Income filed with NYCHA from 2003 through 2005, DEWITT reported part-time employment as a security guard at Madison Square Garden, earning between \$4,709 and \$17,889 per year, as his sole source of income. DOI's investigation found, however, that, since March 24, 2003, DEWITT has been employed full-time as a PANYNJ Security Guard, earning between \$42,661 and \$49,011 per year. Based on his under-reporting of income, DEWITT paid monthly rent

ranging from \$52 to \$385 a month to his landlord, towards his \$686 rent, and NYCHA paid between \$301 and \$634/month. Had DEWITT reported his Port Authority income he would have been ineligible for any Section 8 subsidies beginning October 2003. The DOI/PANYNJ investigation determined that, between October 2003 and May 2006, NYCHA overpaid rental subsidies on DEWITT's behalf in the amount of \$15,828.

DOREEN ROSE, 41, of 2370 Second Avenue, Apartment 4E, New York, NY, a 5-room apartment at NYCHA's Wagner Houses located in Harlem, allegedly concealed from NYCHA that she has been employed with the Port Authority since December 2000. On Affidavits of Income she filed with NYCHA each year between 2001 and 2005, ROSE reported that she was unemployed, and that her household income consisted of Public Assistance benefits of between \$109 and \$200/month. The DOI/PANYNJ investigation determined that, in addition to the Public Assistance reported, ROSE earned between \$19,370 and the \$52,275/year as a Toll Collector with the Port Authority, income she did not report to NYCHA. As a result of her false filings, ROSE paid only \$153/month rent for her NYCHA apartment, when she should have paid between \$285 and \$619/month. ROSE's concealment of income caused NYCHA to be defrauded of \$21,526 in rent payments during the period April 2001 and May 2006.

RENEE TAYLOR, 44, of 1365 Fifth Avenue, Apartment 16A, New York, New York, a 4-room apartment at NYCHA's Taft Houses, also located in Harlem, allegedly obtained \$24,797 in unwarranted rent subsidies from 1996 through 2004 by failing to report her PANYNJ employment on her yearly Affidavits of Income she filed with NYCHA. TAYLOR, who works as an Administrative Secretary for the Port Authority, earning between \$28,752 and \$47,212/year, falsely reported to NYCHA that she has been employed as a cashier at Frank's Fish and Chips, earning between \$9,950 and \$11,375/year. DOI/PANYNJ's investigation found, however, that the supposed location of Frank's Fish and Chips has actually been occupied by the Golden Billion Chinese Restaurant since at least 1999. As a result of TAYLOR'S actions, TAYLOR paid between \$168 and \$224/month rent to NYCHA. In fact, she should have paid between \$338 and \$495/month rent.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 429 residents, including 139 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$8.5 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 333 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$4.7 million in restitution. Thus far in 2006 alone, 20 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving approximately \$435,000 in government housing benefits.

These investigations were jointly conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso, and Confidential Investigator J. Graham Forbes, and PANYNJ Inspector General Robert E. Van Etten, and members of his staff including Deputy Inspector General/Director of Investigations Michael Nestor, and Police Detectives John C. Noble and Danny DiPrimo. The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting defendants ROSE and TAYLOR. The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting defendant DEWITT.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.***