



The City of New York
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DOI ARRESTS HUSBAND AND WIFE FOR DEFRAUDING HOUSING AUTHORITY \$43,000

Husband secretly owned, and lived in, the apartment for which his wife received NYCHA Section 8 rent subsidies

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), and ROBERT T. JOHNSON, Bronx District Attorney, announced today the arrest of EDISON BURGOS and his wife, LORRAINE MUNIZ, (AKA LORRAINE NUNEZ) for defrauding the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) of more than \$43,000 since 1999.

BURGOS, 33, and MUNIZ, 34, have been indicted and charged with Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st degree. If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

MUNIZ has been a Section 8 tenant at 231 Graff Avenue, Apt.2, Bronx, since March 1, 1999. On Affidavits filed each year with NYCHA to qualify for rent subsidies, MUNIZ reported her own income, but falsely claimed that only she and her two daughters resided in her subsidized apartment. As a result of these false Affidavits, NYCHA found MUNIZ to be eligible for rent subsidies, and paid between \$392 and \$935/month towards her rent.

DOI's investigation found that BURGOS resided in MUNIZ' subsidized apartment as an unreported tenant both before and after the couple's 2003 marriage. In addition to living "rent-free," BURGOS personally profited from the Section 8 rent subsidy payments in that he was, unbeknownst to NYCHA, a joint owner of the property in which the Section 8 apartment was located. While living with MUNIZ, BURGOS worked as a telephone technician and earned up to \$64,000/year. If BURGOS' ownership of the Section 8 property, his marriage to MUNIZ, and his income had been properly disclosed to NYCHA, MUNIZ would not have been eligible for any of the \$43,370 in rent subsidies NYCHA paid from March 1, 1999 to December 31, 2004.

This investigation was jointly conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Special Investigator Patricia Carvajal, as well as Detective Investigator John Wall, and Chief Financial Investigator Julio Santiago of the Bronx District Attorney's Office. The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the cases. Assistant District Attorney Stuart Levy of the Rackets Bureau is handling the prosecution.

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

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