



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FIVE BROOKLYN RESIDENTS IN \$69K HOUSING FRAUD
One New York City HRA employee concealed her City income.

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of four New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") residents and one former Section 8 recipient for fraudulently receiving approximately \$69,911 in rent subsidies for apartments located throughout the Borough of Brooklyn.

Arrested today were four NYCHA tenants from the Williamsburg, Bushwick and Clinton Hill sections of Brooklyn and one former Ocean Hill Section 8 tenant. Each defendant has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, and related crimes. If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI will continue to investigate and arrest individuals, including public employees, who commit fraud to obtain public housing benefits to which they are not entitled, when so many needy and eligible people are waiting for affordable housing."

ANGELA FARMER, 37, who received Section 8 subsidies for an apartment at 271 Bainbridge Street, Brooklyn, is charged with failing to report to NYCHA that, since May 2002, she has been employed as a Job Opportunity Specialist with the New York City Human Resources Administration ("HRA"). Instead, FARMER told NYCHA, on her 2002, 2003, and 2004 yearly Affidavits of Income, that her income consisted only of her son's Supplemental Security Income and child support. By concealing her HRA income of between \$14,776 and \$28,431 per year, FARMER paid monthly rent of only \$53 to \$214 rather than the \$355 to \$711 she should have paid. She is charged with defrauding NYCHA of \$14,524 in rental subsidies between August 2002 and June 2005.

ROSALIND WEAVER, 36, the tenant of a 4-room apartment in NYCHA's Marcy Houses in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, is charged with unlawfully obtaining \$24,360 in rent subsidies between May 1999 and April 2005 by concealing more than \$113,000 of income from her employment with Concord Electronics Corporation. In Affidavits of Income WEAVER filed with NYCHA from 1999 through 2004, WEAVER reported public assistance or family contributions as her sole source of income. DOI investigators found, however, that WEAVER has been employed with Concord as a sales clerk since May 1998, earning between \$17,007 and \$20,563 per year. By concealing her employment income, WEAVER paid only \$120 or \$130 per month in rent rather than the \$425 to \$495 she should have paid.

ANDREW & BARBARA JINWRIGHT, 60 and 56, respectively, tenants of a 4-room apartment in NYCHA's Stuyvesant Gardens, in Bushwick, Brooklyn, are charged with unlawfully obtaining \$16,214 in rent subsidies between August 1999 and July 2005. The JINWRIGHTS are accused of failing to report to NYCHA, on their annual Affidavits of Income, various sources of household income including BARBARA JINWRIGHT's pension benefits from Verizon, their daughter's previous employment with North Fork Bank and current employment with the NYPD as a Traffic Agent, and their son's previous employment with the Bushwick Development Corp. and his subsequent unemployment benefits. Instead, the JINWRIGHTS reported only ANDREW JINWRIGHT's disability pension from the United States Postal

Service as their sole source of household income. As a result of the under-reporting, the JINWRIGHTS paid rent ranging from \$257 to \$286 per month, when they should have paid \$495 per month, the maximum rent for their apartment.

CYNTHIA MARCH, 35, tenant of a 4-room apartment in NYCHA's Ingersoll Houses, in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn, is accused of failing to report her sister-in-law's presence in the apartment and income from employment with the Wildcat Service Corporation and the New York City's Administration for Children's Services. On Affidavits of Income filed from 2002 through 2004, MARCH listed only herself and two children as residents and paid monthly rent ranging from \$74 to \$311. Had MARCH reported her sister-in-law's income from 2002 to July 2005, MARCH would have been required to pay \$495 per month, the maximum rent for her apartment. As a result of MARCH's actions, it is charged, NYCHA was defrauded of \$14,813 in housing subsidies for June 2002 through July 2005.

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 434 residents, including 140 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$8.6 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, 25 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving approximately \$504,000 in government housing benefits.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Brooklyn Leased Housing and Borough Management Offices for their assistance in the investigations.

These investigations were conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff including Deputy Inspectors General Bergia Telesford and Kevin R. Smith, Assistant Inspectors General James Hylton and Rosemary Caruso, Chief Investigator Christopher France, Special Investigator Patricia Carvajal and Confidential Investigator Tamar Markham. The Office of Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Kings County is prosecuting the cases.

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.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***