



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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FORMER HPD COMMISSIONER PLEADS GUILTY TO GIVING FALSE TESTIMONY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today that RICHARD ROBERTS – the former Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), former Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and former ex-officio member of the Residential Mortgage Insurance Corporation (REMIC) – pleaded guilty in Manhattan Federal Court to one count of making false statements.

According to the Information, shortly before ROBERTS left City service in late July 2000, then-HDC President Russell A. Harding approved the expenditure of approximately \$38,000 in HDC funds to purchase a vehicle for ROBERTS' personal use. After leaving his City positions, there was no legitimate reason for ROBERTS to use the vehicle. However, he used the vehicle sporadically from approximately August 2000 until late 2001, when he returned the vehicle to HDC.

During a joint investigation, DOI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, questioned ROBERTS about the vehicle. On several occasions, ROBERTS falsely stated that he continued to be a member of REMIC's Board of Directors and that he used the vehicle to carry out official REMIC duties.

ROBERTS, 40, of Manhattan, faces a jail sentence of up to five years. He is scheduled to be sentenced by United States District Judge Victor Marrero on December 3, 2004.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Deborah Landis and Daniel Braun and was investigated by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for HPD.

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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