



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 04-2005  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005**

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN RESIDENT FOR \$19,000 HOUSING FRAUD**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of a New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) resident for unlawfully obtaining approximately \$19,115 in rent subsidies.

DELORES TUCKER has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, TUCKER faces up to seven years in prison.

TUCKER, 48, tenant of record since 1980 in a four-room apartment in NYCHA’s Albany Houses in Weeksville, Brooklyn, allegedly filed false Affidavits of Income with NYCHA from 1998 through 2003. DOI investigators found that TUCKER failed to report the Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”) ranging from \$523 to \$575 a month she received on behalf of two of her children, and the \$426 to \$575 a month she received for herself. Instead, from approximately May 1998 until June 2003, TUCKER reported public assistance as her sole source of income. As a result, TUCKER’s rent was calculated at a rate of \$137 a month. If she had accurately reported her SSI benefits, TUCKER would have paid between \$275 and \$495 a month in rent.

This arrest is part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that has resulted, since 1995, in the arrest of 373 residents including 117 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.2 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. In the last year, 78 individuals were arrested for illegally receiving over \$1.3 million in government housing benefits. So far, 285 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$3.8 million in court-imposed restitution.

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton, and Confidential Investigator Andre Gorelkin. The Office of the Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA’s Brooklyn Borough Management Office for its assistance in the investigation.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.*