



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #50-2009
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2009**

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES
OF STEALING \$1,650 IN COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL FEES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of JULIETTE RICHMOND, a former New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") Community Assistant, on charges that she pocketed approximately \$1,650 in funds from individuals who paid deposits and fees to rent a room in NYCHA's Vernon Community Center ("VCC") in Brooklyn. DOI began investigating after it was notified by NYCHA that it found no rental funds associated with a number of VCC events. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

RICHMOND, 33, of Brooklyn, was arrested and charged Tuesday, June 9, 2009, with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, class E felonies, and 13 counts of Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant abused her insider position to siphon money from unsuspecting patrons of the Housing Authority's Community Center, according to the criminal complaint. Every City employee should know that stealing City funds is a crime that will be prosecuted."

RICHMOND began working for NYCHA in April 2000 and was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$29,155 when her position was eliminated in April 2008. She currently works as a Juvenile Counselor for the City Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ").

According to the criminal complaint, between December 2007 and April 2008 RICHMOND accepted money, which totaled approximately \$1,650, from 13 individuals who paid deposits and fees to rent the VCC for events. DOI's investigation found that RICHMOND never turned over the funds to NYCHA and did not have permission to keep them.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez, and Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Assistant Inspector General Suzanne Vitti, and Confidential Investigator Beth-Ann Permuy.

The case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Trisha Digioire of the office of the Brooklyn District Attorney, under the supervision of Senior Assistant District Attorney Dennis Ring.

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.