



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY SCHOOL AIDE FOR \$23,256 HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of ANDREA I. GROSS, for defrauding the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) of \$23,256 in rent subsidies.

GROSS, 37, of Johnson City, New York, in Broome County, was arrested this morning by DOI investigators and agents from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She is charged in the federal court in Manhattan with making false statements and stealing \$23,256 in rent benefits. If convicted, GROSS faces a maximum of ten years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Stealing public benefits hurts taxpayers and the people who need and qualify for the assistance. And anyone who defrauds the City’s housing agencies risks arrest, criminal prosecution, and jail.”

DOI’s investigation revealed that for five years GROSS hid household income and paid less rent than she should have for her five-room apartment in NYCHA’s Douglass Houses on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. From November 1996 through December 2001, GROSS, a former New York City Department of Education School Aide, failed to report her son’s Supplemental Security Income (“SSI”). As a result, GROSS’s monthly rent ranged from \$207 to \$410, when she should have been paying \$619.

In 2002, GROSS applied for NYCHA’s Rental Amnesty Payment Program. But she refused to sign a repayment agreement and moved out of the apartment in March 2004.

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 396 residents, including 123 City, State and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.8 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 315 cases have resulted in convictions and nearly \$4.4 million in court-imposed restitution. Since January 2005, 17 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving nearly \$329,000 in government housing benefits.

The investigation was conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Assistant Inspector General Anthony Capek and Special Investigator Louis Vega.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Ruth Ritzema, Special Agent in Charge at HUD’s New York office, and Special Agent Michael Granatstein of HUD for their assistance in the investigation.

The office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, David N. Kelley, is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Christine Y. Wong.

Criminal charges are merely 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.