



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES OF
STEALING \$503 IN PETTY CASH FROM THE HOUSING AGENCY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Principal Administrative Associate assigned to the City Housing Authority's ("NYCHA") Capital Projects Administration Unit ("CPAU") on charges he stole \$503 in petty cash funds while administering them for the Unit between July 2008 and January 2009. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

DENNIS CHABOT, 35, of Queens Village, was charged with two counts of Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony; and one count each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, class E felonies, and Petit Larceny and Official Misconduct, class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony 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, "Every employee should know that a City agency's petty cash is not to be used as a personal ATM. As these charges show, this type of criminal conduct will be exposed and prosecuted."

CHABOT has been a NYCHA employee since April 1995 and currently receives an annual salary of approximately \$44,210.

DOI began its investigation after a NYCHA audit identified missing funds and questionable receipts in CPAU's petty cash fund, which is used to pay expenditures on behalf of that Unit. NYCHA employees must obtain receipts to document petty cash expenditures, which they submit to the custodian of the petty cash fund for reimbursement. CHABOT was in charge of CPAU's petty cash.

According to the criminal complaint, a NYCHA audit of CPAU's petty cash funds found a shortage of over \$350 based on discrepancies in three vouchers processed by CHABOT. One voucher indicated that CHABOT had reimbursed another employee \$393 through petty cash, but DOI's investigation found the employee never received the funds. Two other vouchers for employee reimbursements were found to have been altered by a total of \$110. DOI's investigation found that CHABOT pocketed the \$393 plus the difference between the original and altered vouchers, for a total of approximately \$503.

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Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked John B. Rhea, NYCHA Chairman, and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Acting Inspector General for NYCHA Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Counsel to the Inspector General Kevin Smith, Deputy Counsel Laureen Hintz, and Chief Investigative Paralegal Tracy Meisel.

Assistant District Attorney George Bronner from the New York County District Attorney's office has been assigned to the prosecution.

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.

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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**