

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 212-825-5900 Release # 60-2005 nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 CONTACT: EMILY GEST (212) 825-5931

STATEMENT FROM DOI REGARDING AIR AMERICA'S REPAYMENT OF \$875,000

During the course of DOI's investigation into allegations that officials at Gloria Wise Boys & Girls Club had falsified documents submitted to various City agencies and had approved significant inappropriate transactions, DOI discovered that Gloria Wise had transferred \$875,000 to Air America. DOI asked Air America to repay the \$875,000 to an escrow account controlled by DOI. Thereafter, Air America repaid only \$50,000 to an escrow account that is not controlled by DOI. DOI is pleased that Piquant LLC, the current owner of Air America, has agreed to DOI's request that, in lieu of making \$50,000 quarterly payments, Piquant transfer the full \$875,000 to the escrow account. While the total reimbursement reportedly has been made, DOI does not control the escrow account, although Air America's attorneys have represented that the money will only be disbursed with DOI's authorization. DOI's investigation is ongoing.

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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.