



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER NYCTA TRACKWORKER FOR DEFRAUDING NYCHA OF MORE THAN \$12K
-- Buries his mother, then pretends she's alive for 4 years so he can live in her \$170-month apartment --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of TIMOTHY FLOYD, a former New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) employee who pretended his mother was still alive so he could live in her government-subsidized apartment for four years and only pay \$170-month in rent. As a result, he unlawfully received more than \$12,000 in rent subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

FLOYD, 60, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

Today's arrest is the result of an on-going effort by DOI to match NYCHA tenant records with death certificates filed with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In the past six months, DOI has arrested 16 individuals for unlawfully pretending the tenant of record was still alive so they could continue to live in subsidized housing.

FLOYD, who was a Track Worker for NYCTA from April 1999 until he was terminated in June 2004, submitted false paperwork to NYCHA to make it appear that his mother, Mattie Vinson, who died on February 7, 2000 at the age of 85, was still alive and living in her three-room apartment in NYCHA's Fort Independence Houses in the Kingsbridge section of the Bronx. When filing tenant-related materials, FLOYD gave NYCHA documents purportedly signed by his mother that falsely indicated she lived alone in the apartment and her income ranged from \$550 to \$562 a month in Social Security benefits. As a result, NYCHA charged FLOYD's mother anywhere from \$164 to \$170 a month in rent.

DOI investigators determined that FLOYD himself was listed as the informant on his mother's death certificate and claimed, at the time, to live in his mother's NYCHA apartment. DOI investigators also determined that FLOYD requested a leave of absence from his job after his mother's death. FLOYD continued to live in her apartment even though he had been told by NYCHA on multiple occasions — in 1998, 1999 and 2001 — that he could not become a permanent tenant in his mother's one-bedroom apartment. When questioned during an apartment inspection in June 2004, FLOYD maintained that his mother was alive and living "down south."

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant has learned the hard way that greed doesn't pay, especially when it involves cheating or lying in order to obtain scarce subsidized housing. The conduct with which this defendant is charged is particularly galling because it involves capitalizing on the death of a relative, the defendant's own mother."

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that these arrests are part of an ongoing Citywide crackdown by DOI and the local district attorneys, which has, since 1995, resulted in the arrest of 370 residents – including 115 City, State and Federal employees – charged with stealing over \$7.2 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. Since January alone, 75 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving nearly \$1.2 million in government housing benefits by concealing household composition and/or their employment income from NYCHA. So far, 273 cases have resulted in convictions and more than \$3.6 million in court-imposed restitution.

The investigation was conducted NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin Smith and Confidential Investigator Patricia Carvajal.

The Office of Robert T. Johnson, District Attorney, Bronx County, is prosecuting the matter. Assistant District Attorney Brian Reese is handling the matter under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Richard Baker, Chief of the Arson, Auto, and Economic Crimes Unit.

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.***