



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: KEITH SCHWAM
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS TWO HPD EMPLOYEES IN SECTION 8 RENT SCAM
Falsely reported they were landlord and tenant to obtain \$9,900 in undeserved rent subsidies

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrests of New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) employees KENYA DAVIS and BYRON SAMMS on charges of stealing approximately \$9,900 in Section 8 rent subsidies from HPD by falsely reporting that DAVIS was a rent-paying tenant in a single-family house that SAMMS owns.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "That two City employees, as charged here, would concoct a phony story and falsify documents to trick their own agency into giving them rent money intended for needy tenants is an outrage. DOI will vigorously pursue this matter to ensure that, among other things, all stolen money is recovered."

KENYA DAVIS, 33, of Manhattan, and BYRON SAMMS, 46, of Cambria Heights, Queens, have been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. If convicted, each faces up to 7 years in prison. DAVIS, salary \$38,205, a Check Distribution Coordinator in the Payroll Division, has been with HPD since 2001. SAMMS, salary \$36,076, a Real Property Manager in the Bronx, has been employed by HPD for more than 20 years. Both have been suspended from their jobs.

DOI's investigation revealed that in December 2004 DAVIS and SAMMS submitted eight separate documents to HPD's office in lower Manhattan fraudulently claiming that SAMMS was charging DAVIS rent to reside in SAMMS's home in Cambria Heights, Queens. But records show that DAVIS instead was living on the upper west side of Manhattan and SAMMS was living in his own home. Between December 2004 and June 2006, it is charged, HPD paid SAMMS approximately \$9,900 toward the rent that he was supposedly charging DAVIS.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan and members of his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Francis Sinatra, Deputy Inspector General David Jordan and Investigator Maria Horvat. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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