



The City of New York  
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**DOI DEALS BLOW TO HOUSING FRAUD  
THREE ARRESTED THIS WEEK IN SEPARATE INVESTIGATIONS  
*--Craigslist ads, bogus domestic violence claims, and forged tax returns used in schemes--***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrests of three individuals this week in three separate housing fraud investigations, representing a spectrum of illegal schemes employed to siphon precious public housing dollars:

- Late Thursday, October 7, 2010, a 21-year Brooklyn woman was charged with using Craigslist ads to defraud the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") of \$3,515 and bilk unsuspecting apartment seekers of \$2,400 in cash deposits and rent for illegal sublets of her public housing apartment in Williamsburg and then renege on the deals.
- Late Wednesday, October 6, 2010, a 30-year-old State employee was charged with fabricating domestic violence incidents to fraudulently obtain in excess of \$14,000 in Section 8 benefits from NYCHA.
- On Monday, October 4, 2010, a Harlem-based tax preparer was charged with forging tax documents to illegally obtain a low-income apartment sponsored by the City Housing Development Corporation ("HDC") for an applicant who was actually a DOI undercover investigator.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI is using social media, database matches, and old-fashioned detective work to stay on top of housing fraud and protect public resources. Housing fraud schemes deprive eligible and needy New Yorkers of affordable housing. The arrests this week offer a window into the array of scams DOI has investigated and our commitment to root out abuse and fraud against the City's housing programs. I thank the District Attorneys and the U.S. Attorneys whose offices have joined forces with us to stop this fraud, and our sister City law enforcement and housing agencies who work with us to protect valuable housing dollars."

DOI's ongoing and comprehensive effort to expose and stop housing fraud has documented the theft of nearly \$11.7 million and resulted in approximately 580 arrests since 2002. DOI initiated these investigations from a variety of sources, including tips from individuals and reports from the City's housing agencies.

The following outlines the charges against the three individuals arrested this week:

- On Thursday, October 7, 2010, UNIQUE D. JONES was charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; two counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; and four counts of Petit Larceny and one count of Scheme to Defraud in the Second Degree, 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.

According to the criminal complaint, between March and September 2010, JONES advertised on Craigslist that her NYCHA apartment in the Williamsburg Houses was available for sublet, which is not permitted. The defendant collected cash in two separate agreements with would-be renters, taking a total of \$2,400 from them in September, but barring them from residing in the apartment. JONES also rented the apartment to an individual for \$2,400 during the same period, defrauding NYCHA of approximately \$3,515.

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DOI worked with the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) on this investigation, which is ongoing. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

- On Wednesday, October 6, 2010, LATONYA MALONE, 30, of the Bronx, was charged with fabricating an Order of Protection and Domestic Violence Incident Reports to illegally obtain Section 8 housing subsidies from NYCHA. She is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, class E felonies; and Petit Larceny, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant filed a Section 8 questionnaire and application with NYCHA, providing documentation that purportedly showed she was a victim of domestic violence. DOI’s investigation found that the documents were forged, and the incident fabricated, and that MALONE thereby illegally obtained in excess of \$14,000 in Section 8 subsidies. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

MALONE has been employed with the New York State Office of Mental Health since 2000, is currently a Safety and Security Officer with the Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center in Manhattan, and receives an annual salary of approximately \$35,692.

MALONE is the eighth individual arrested by DOI on charges of submitting false domestic violence reports to illegally obtain a subsidized apartment since 2009. In June 2010, DOI arrested JOANNY ARCE, of Queens, 29, on charges of submitting forged court and police documents and illegally obtaining approximately \$14,370 in Section 8 subsidies. Further details on the other six arrests can be found at the following link: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr109vicdomesticviolence\\_102009.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr109vicdomesticviolence_102009.pdf).

- On Monday, October 4, 2010, DOI arrested JOHN J. MOFUNANYA, 48, who was charged with forging a tax return and pay stubs to help an ineligible applicant fraudulently obtain a low-income apartment sponsored by the HDC. The housing applicant was actually a DOI undercover investigator. DOI’s investigation found that MOFUNANYA, who is the owner of JJM Financial Consultant in Harlem, knowingly falsified the documents for a fee. Further details can be found at the following link: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr71mofunanya10\\_04\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr71mofunanya10_04_2010.pdf).

The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting seven of the eight fraudulent domestic violence cases and the MOFUNANYA case.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.; Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes; Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson; Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, and HDC President Marc Jahr, and their staffs, and the New York State Office of Mental Health, for their assistance and cooperation on these investigations.

DOI’s Office of Inspector General for NYCHA investigated the JONES, MALONE, and ARCE cases. The Office of Inspector General for HDC investigated the MOFUNANYA case.

Criminal complaints and indictments 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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