



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS LANDLORD FOR ALLEGEDLY POSTING FAKE EVICTION NOTICE**  
***--Charged with unlawful eviction after allegedly taping a City marshal's altered notice to tenant's apartment door--***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of OLUDOLA JOHNSON, the owner of a three-story building in Brooklyn, for allegedly affixing a fraudulent, altered copy of a City marshal's notice to his tenant's apartment door to create the false appearance that the marshal had lawfully evicted the tenant, who admittedly owed back rent. A DOI investigation found that, in fact, no City marshal had been to the apartment, and no warrant of eviction – the court order that authorizes a City marshal to remove a tenant – had been issued by the Housing Court.

JOHNSON, 36, of Brooklyn, was arrested this morning and charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony; Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor; and Unlawful Eviction, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Eviction regulations are in place to safeguard tenants and landlords and to ensure that there are legal procedures to this very sensitive matter. These allegations show a disregard for the law. Individuals who choose to alter legal eviction documents must know that there are repercussions -- namely arrest and possible jail time."

DOI's investigation began when the tenant alleged she had seen JOHNSON affix the marshal's notice to her apartment door on September 4, 2007 and discovered the lock had been changed the next morning. The notice, which is headed "MARSHAL'S LEGAL POSSESSION" and displays the City Seal and the name, badge number, and office address of City Marshal Norman Katz, states that Katz had transferred "legal possession" of the apartment from the tenant to JOHNSON. The tenant said that she removed the notice from the door, provided a copy to Marshal Katz's office and was informed by his employees that Katz did not issue the notice.

DOI's investigation revealed that Marshal Katz had no involvement in the matter and that the notice the tenant removed from her door was an altered copy of a notice that Marshal Katz had left at JOHNSON's building more than a year earlier - on May 26, 2006 – when he had conducted a court-ordered eviction of another tenant at JOHNSON's building.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Administrative Judge Fern Fisher and the staff of the New York City Civil Court for their assistance in providing DOI with the Court's pertinent public records and the offices of City Marshals Norman Katz and Steven Powell for their cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, particularly Confidential Investigator Teresa Pinckney and Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright, and by DOI's Investigative Squad of New York City Police Department detectives. The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

*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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