

## The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

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## DOI ARRESTS ACCOUNTANT ON CHARGES HE FALSIFIED INCOME IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN SUBSIDIZED HOUSING THROUGH A CITY PROGRAM

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of DANIEL SHOSHAN, an accountant, on charges he falsified his salary information on an application for a low-income apartment developed through the New York City Housing Development Corporation's ("HDC") Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program. Because of DOI's investigation, SHOSHAN never acquired the low-income apartment.

SHOSHAN, 31, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Conviction of a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, and conviction of a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Concealing income to obtain a subsidized apartment abuses the taxpayers and deprives eligible families of precious opportunities to find affordable housing. It's also a crime with serious consequences. This ruse was foiled thanks to HDC's alerting DOI and the diligence of DOI's investigators in uncovering it. We will continue to work with our City and law enforcement partners to stop housing fraud and ensure that taxpayer-supported housing is preserved for those who need it."

DOI's investigation began after it was notified by HDC in July 2008 that SHOSHAN submitted conflicting employment information to HDC.

According to the criminal complaint, SHOSHAN submitted an application to HDC in January 2008 stating his annual salary was approximately \$29,300, and he submitted pay stubs to substantiate that figure. DOI's investigation found that the address SHOSHAN gave for his purported employer did not exist and that the voice on his supposed "employer's" answering machine was that of SHOSHAN's mother.

DOI's investigation found that when SHOSHAN applied for low-income housing, he was actually employed as an accountant receiving an annual salary of approximately \$65,000. Had SHOSHAN reported those facts, he would not have qualified for a low-income apartment.

The Low-Income Affordable Marketplace Program is an HDC-financed program in which building owners agree to provide reduced-rent apartments for low-income individuals in exchange for low-interest mortgages through HDC. In order to apply for a unit, individuals must submit an application and be selected

through a housing lottery. If the applicant appears to be income eligible for an apartment, the individual is asked to provide further information and proof of annual income and family composition.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanks HDC President Marc Jahr and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by HDC Inspector General Joseph P. Piazza and Special Counsel Catherine Riccards.

The case is being prosecuted by the office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.