



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF EMPLOYEE OF TWO NYCHA CONTRACTORS
ON CHARGES OF GETTING PAID FOR WORK HE NEVER DID**

Margaret Garnett, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest today of an employee of two contractors doing construction work for the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) on charges the employee defrauded one of those NYCHA-funded contractors of approximately \$8,007 by stating he was working for both contractors simultaneously at two NYCHA developments in Brooklyn. DOI investigated this matter in partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, which is prosecuting the case. DOI began investigating the matter after receiving a report from an integrity monitor that oversees construction work at NYCHA and reports to DOI.

ANTWOAN HAYES, 48, of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Mount Bethel, PA, was charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Petit Larceny, Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and Resisting Arrest, each class A misdemeanors; and 14 counts each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, both class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett said, “This investigation and arrest is a warning to anyone trying to scam the City by fabricating work hours or submitting fraudulent documents: New York City is serious about rooting out and stopping anyone who wants to defraud government-funded contractors doing work in this City, thereby cheating New Yorkers. DOI was pleased to work with the Brooklyn District Attorney on this investigation.”

According to the criminal complaint and DOI’s investigation, between October 13, 2020 and December 22, 2020, the defendant was an employee of AWL Industries, Inc., a contractor doing flood mitigation and roof replacement, as well as other construction work, at the Haber Houses on West 24th Street in Brooklyn. During that same timeframe, the defendant was also employed by Adams European Contracting Inc., which was doing exterior brickwork and roofing work at Ingersoll Houses on Navy Walk in Brooklyn. The defendant was designated as a Pointers, Cleaners and Caulkers worker for both contractors. DOI conducted surveillance operations and performed an in-depth document analysis of NYCHA and the contractors’ records as part of the investigation and found that cell phone data showed that on at least 11 dates between October 13, 2020 and December 15, 2020, the defendant’s cell phone was not in the vicinity of Haber Houses when the defendant indicated he was working there; that the cell phone was in the vicinity of Ingersoll Houses; or not in the vicinity of either NYCHA development. The investigation found that AWL Industries paid the defendant for 88 hours, valued at a total of approximately \$8,007, for work he was not physically on-site to perform. Additionally, on November 9, 2020, December 21, 2020, and December 22, 2020, the defendant attempted to unsuccessfully obtain approximately \$2,201 in payment from AWL, even though he was not present for an entire shift. The defendant did not receive payment for those three dates. The investigation found the defendant did not have permission or authority from AWL to receive the approximately \$8,007 he received or the approximately \$2,201 he attempted to obtain.

According to the criminal complaint, when investigators approached the defendant this morning to take him into custody, the defendant ran and was immediately apprehended.

Commissioner Garnett thanked NYCHA Chair and Chief Executive Officer Gregory Russ and his staff for their cooperation on this investigation. Commissioner Garnett also thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and his staff for their partnership and prosecution of this matter.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Adam Libove with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau is prosecuting the matter, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Laura Neubauer.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA, specifically Confidential Investigators Ashley Pennington and Delcine Doscher, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Gregory DeBoer, Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella, and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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