



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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Release #12-2022  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2022**

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**STATEN ISLAND WOMAN CHARGED WITH STEALING APPROXIMATELY \$9,600  
IN CITY RENTAL SUBSIDIES**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Staten Island woman charged with stealing \$9,603.08 in rental subsidies administered by the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") from her six landlords between July 2016 and March 2022. The defendant submitted fraudulent letters to HRA in order to divert subsidy checks meant for her landlords to herself. DOI investigated this matter with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting the case.

NANCY MARRERO, 40, of Staten Island, N.Y., was charged yesterday, May 24, 2022, with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, one count of Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor; and five counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing 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 by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor by up to one year in jail.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Rental subsidies support vulnerable New Yorkers and the landlords who provide housing for them. Theft of these subsidies, as alleged here, drains valuable resources from public programs and deprives the intended recipients of critical funding. DOI will continue to work in partnership with the Brooklyn District Attorney's office to expose and stop this type of misconduct."

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, "Rental subsidies help provide vulnerable New Yorkers with the housing they need to lead healthy and stable lives, which makes this defendant's alleged theft more egregious. My office will always work to protect the taxpayers from those who abuse government programs, and I am grateful to DOI for their partnership on this case."

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant received rental assistance from HRA under the Family Homelessness Eviction & Prevention Supplement ("FHEPS") program. Landlords who lease to FHEPS tenants receive rent payments directly from the City Department of Social Services ("DSS"), which oversees HRA. The investigation determined that between July 2016 and March 2022, the defendant endorsed and deposited a total of \$49,073.08 in DSS rental assistance checks payable to six landlords into accounts she or her associates controlled, even though she was not authorized to do so. From those funds, the defendant paid her landlords \$39,470 of those funds and kept the remaining \$9,603.08. Specifically, according to the criminal complaint, the defendant is charged with the following:

- Defendant signed a lease for an apartment on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Brooklyn, running from June 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017, and then endorsed and deposited a \$900 rental assistance check issued by DSS to her landlord for that apartment.

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- Defendant signed a lease for a second apartment on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Brooklyn, running from August 17, 2017 to August 31, 2018, and then endorsed and deposited thirty rental assistance checks issued by DSS to her landlord totaling \$17,152.50.
- Defendant signed a lease for an apartment on Tioga Street on Staten Island, running from March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020, and then endorsed and deposited two rental assistance checks issued by DSS to her landlord totaling \$1,300.
- Defendant signed a lease for an apartment on Bay Street on Staten Island, running from March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021, and then endorsed and deposited ten rental assistance checks issued by DSS to her landlord, totaling \$11,010. In addition, the defendant wrote and sent a letter on her landlord's letterhead requesting that HRA re-issue eight rental checks and direct them elsewhere; and wrote a second letter, again on her landlord's letterhead, changing the address of her landlord, without the permission or authority to do so.
- Defendant signed a lease for an apartment on Dongan Avenue on Staten Island, running from November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021, and endorsed and deposited six rental assistance checks issued by DSS to her landlord, totaling \$7,900.08. In addition, in January 2021 the defendant submitted to HRA a letter providing a false name of her landlord, indicating that the rental payments had not been received. In June 2021 she wrote and submitted to HRA a second letter advising HRA to forward all rental checks on behalf of the defendant to NYC Rentals MGMT Inc. at a specific post office box in possession of the defendant. Defendant endorsed and deposited 14 rental assistance checks that had been fraudulently diverted and made payable to NYC Rentals MGMT Inc., a total of \$10,810.50.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, and his staff, for their partnership and successful prosecution of this matter; and Gary P. Jenkins, Commissioner of the City Department of Social Services, which oversees HRA and the City Department of Homeless Services, and his staff for their assistance and cooperation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Confidential Investigator Ardijana Ivezic, under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Jeremy Reyes, Deputy Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Inspector General John Bellanie, Deputy Commissioner/ Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort.

The investigation is being prosecuted by Adam Libove, Assistant District Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Brooklyn District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Laura Neubauer, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau.

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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