



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS NYC TRANSIT WORKER IN \$14K HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a New York City Transit (NYCT) worker for fraudulently receiving more than \$14,000 in rental subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority.

The defendant, FLORENCE JACOB, has been charged with Grand Larceny and Filing False Documents. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in jail.

JACOB, 40, has been a Section 8 participant since May 2002 in a 5-room apartment in Flatbush, Brooklyn, allegedly concealed from NYCHA that she was gainfully employed by NYCT. JACOB falsely reported to NYCHA in an April 27, 2002 "Affidavit of Non-Employment" that she had been unemployed since 1981. However, DOI determined that JACOB has actually been employed by NYCT since March 1999 as a Conductor and earned \$34,775 a year. JACOB's actions caused NYCHA to pay rent subsidies ranging from \$870 to \$1057 a month from May 2002 to April 2004, resulting in a loss to NYCHA of \$14,400. During that same time period, based on the false income she reported, Jacob paid a monthly rent ranging from only \$227 to \$414.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant has learned the perils of her greedy behavior. Housing scams do not work. DOI investigates these types of cases so that taxpayers' money is not wasted and so that those who need and qualify for affordable public housing will receive it."

This arrest is part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 342 residents, including 110 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$6.6 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 249 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$3.4 million in restitution. Since January 2004 alone, 47 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$700,000 in government housing benefits.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing Department for their assistance in this case. This investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspectors General Kevin Smith and Bergia Telesford and Confidential Investigator Alexandra Hampton. The Office of Charles J. Hynes, District Attorney, Kings County, will prosecute JACOB.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. It 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 contractors or those who receive benefits from the City.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.