



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF NYCHA WORKER ON CHARGES  
OF STEALING AND RESELLING APPLIANCES INTENDED FOR A PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEX IN BROOKLYN  
--Investigation also uncovers illegal gambling that results in arrest by NYPD--**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the arrest of a NYCHA Caretaker for stealing two new refrigerators and two new stoves purchased by NYCHA and intended for the Seth Low Houses on Powell Street in Brooklyn, and reselling those appliances to a Brooklyn appliance store for \$400 in cash. The stolen appliances were valued at a total of approximately \$1,690. DOI's investigation uncovered surveillance video showing the NYCHA employee, KENYON ALLEN, transporting some of the stolen goods in a NYCHA vehicle and in full uniform. As DOI investigated the above theft, it uncovered an illegal gambling operation located in the back of the appliance store, and notified the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"). Police officers arrested the store owner on several misdemeanor gambling charges. The office of Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson is prosecuting both of these cases.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "NYCHA Caretakers play a critical role in helping to maintain a decent standard of living for our City's public housing residents. These charges affirm the strong message that stealing City resources – especially those intended for some of the neediest in our community – will not be tolerated. That this investigation led to uncovering an illegal gambling operation underscores the importance of DOI's commitment to help root out corruption of all kinds."

ALLEN, 44, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was arrested today on charges of two counts each of the following: Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony and the class A misdemeanors Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree; Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle in the Third Degree and Petit Larceny. The defendant was also charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth 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 up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable up to one year's incarceration.

ALLEN began working as a NYCHA Caretaker in June 1997, and currently receives an annual base salary of approximately \$41,800. His responsibilities included moving refrigerators and stoves, handling trash removal and assisting with move outs. ALLEN was suspended from NYCHA based on his arrest.

In connection with the gambling investigation, JUAN BEATO, 40, was arrested last month and charged with Possession of Gambling Records in the Second Degree, Possession of a Gambling Device, and Promoting Gambling in the Second Degree, all class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, class A misdemeanors are punishable by up to a year's incarceration. BEATO's case is pending in Kings County Criminal Court where he is scheduled to appear on August 10.

According to DOI's investigation and the criminal complaint, on June 18, 2016, ALLEN used his NYCHA truck to transport two new stoves from NYCHA's Seth Low Houses, delivering them to an appliance store, Unidos Con Amor Refrigeration, on 880 Broadway in Brooklyn, accepting \$200 from an employee at the store. The investigation also found

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that on June 25, 2016, ALLEN took two refrigerators without permission from Seth Low Houses and delivered them to Unidos Con Amor Refrigeration using a NYCHA truck. When ALLEN arrived, he was captured on video unloading two refrigerators with the assistance of another individual who then handed ALLEN a sum of money. The investigation subsequently determined the defendant accepted \$200 for that delivery. In each instance, ALLEN coordinated the deliveries by phone with a man by the name of "Washing Machine Man." In his capacity as a Caretaker, ALLEN had access to dozens of refrigerators, stoves and other electronics purchased by NYCHA. The defendant did not have permission or authority to take, possess, or remove these appliances.

ALLEN told DOI investigators he also took and sold numerous other appliances from NYCHA over the past 10 months.

DOI recommended to NYCHA that it immediately inventory major appliances, including refrigerators and stoves that are currently stored at its various public housing complexes and other NYCHA locations and evaluate the efficacy of NYCHA procedures to track such property and protect it from theft.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson and NYCHA Chair and Chief Executive Officer Shola Olatoye, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance on the NYCHA investigation. Commissioner Peters also thanked NYPD Commissioner William J. Bratton and his officers for their assistance and partnership on the gambling investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA, specifically Special Investigator Enio Bencosme, Confidential Investigator Shateeka Davis, Chief Investigator Emily Bizzarro, Deputy Inspector General Gregory DeBoer, under the supervision of Inspector General Ralph M. Iannuzzi, Associate Commissioner James J. Flaherty, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll, and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

The NYCHA case is being prosecuted by the Kings County District Attorney's Office specifically, Assistant District Attorney Meredith Weill in the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Michael Spanakos.

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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