

## The City of New York Department of Investigation

## JOCELYN E. STRAUBER COMMISSIONER

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## NEW YORK CITY CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO SUBMITTING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest and guilty plea of a Correction Officer with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") who submitted false information about his income to the City Housing Development Corporation ("HDC"), in order to receive publicly funded affordable housing for which he did not qualify. DOI began this investigation after performing an income verification match with HDC and finding a discrepancy between the Correction Officer's income as reported in his housing application and his actual earnings. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office handled the prosecution.

LEROY ALLEN-TRAMMELL, 34, of Queens, N.Y., was arrested today on a charge of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor; pleaded guilty to the same; and was sentenced to a conditional discharge and \$250 fine. His next court appearance is scheduled for January 23, 2025, for imposition of the sentence.

DOI Commissioner Strauber said "City-funded affordable housing is a limited resource intended to reduce housing costs for those who qualify. Falsifying documentation of one's income to obtain such housing deprives deserving New Yorkers of this precious resource. As a City employee in a position of trust and responsibility, the defendant's conduct is particularly egregious. I thank District Attorney Bragg and HDC for their diligence and partnership in rooting out fraud."

Manhattan D.A. Alvin Bragg, Jr., said: "In the midst of New York's ongoing housing crisis, every affordable unit counts. This Correction Officer falsified City paystubs and other records to unlawfully secure housing reserved for New Yorkers earning far less than him. I thank our law enforcement partners at the Department of Investigation for their continuing collaboration to ensure the integrity of our City's affordable housing programs."

According to criminal complaint, in May 2023, ALLEN-TRAMMELL submitted an application for affordable housing, including pay statements and bank records, to the online HDC document portal. After comparing the defendant's submitted pay statement to pay information maintained by the City and comparing the bank records submitted by the defendant to those obtained from the defendant's financial institution, it was determined that the defendant submitted altered paystubs and bank records to make it appear that he earned less than his actual income. Specifically, the defendant represented that his total annual household income was \$91,258 when, in fact, his total annual income was above the affordable housing applicable income limit of \$118,680.

ALLEN-TRAMMELL began employment at DOC in January 2016 and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$101,590. In Calendar Year 2023, with overtime, ALLEN-TRAMMELL received City income of approximately \$139,086.

DOI Commissioner Strauber thanked Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, Jr., HDC President Eric Enderlin, and their staffs, for their partnership in this investigation.

The investigation is being prosecuted by Zachary Weintraub, an Assistant District Attorney in the Rackets Bureau at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, with the assistance of former paralegal Shriya Shinde.

The investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Sadhbh Harding with DOI's Office of the Inspector General for HDC and supervised by Inspector General Michael Morris, Deputy Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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.