



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

NYCHA TENANT ARRESTED FOR ILLEGALLY SUBLETTING HER SUBSIDIZED APARTMENT

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), and RUTH A. RITZEMA, Special Agent in Charge for the New York Office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General (HUD/OIG), announced today the arrest of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenant RHONDA LEE for filing false documents with NYCHA so that her sister could reside there at NYCHA's expense.

LEE, 39, of Long Island City, has been charged with four counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, she faces up to four years in prison.

LEE has been a tenant of a two-bedroom apartment at NYCHA's Queensbridge Houses in Long Island City since 1992. From 2000 to 2004, LEE reported on yearly Affidavits of Income filed with NYCHA that her family composition consisted of herself, her daughter, and her niece. Based on these filings, NYCHA rented LEE a subsidized two-bedroom apartment for \$495/month. However, DOI investigators found that LEE was actually renting and residing in a private apartment at 1345 Plimpton Avenue, Bronx, while her sister lived in the NYCHA apartment without NYCHA's knowledge or consent.

This investigation was conducted jointly by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin Smith and Acting Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso, and HUD/OIG Special Agent Michael Stolworthy. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke, under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides of District Attorney Brown's Economic Crimes Bureau, is handling the prosecutions. The District Attorney's NYPD Detective Squad also assisted.

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

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