



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 25-2005
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2005

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS STATEN ISLAND RESIDENT FOR \$19K HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") resident for unlawfully obtaining \$19,355 in rent subsidies.

GERALDINE IVERSON, 55, of West Brighton, Staten Island, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. If convicted, IVERSON faces up to seven years in prison.

IVERSON, the tenant of record of a five room apartment in NYCHA's West Brighton Houses since 1973, will be charged with unlawfully receiving \$19,355 in rental subsidies from August 1, 1992 through July 31, 2001. IVERSON filed Affidavits of Income with NYCHA alleging that from 1992 through 2001, she earned from \$16,461 to \$18,200 a year as a Computer Operator for Phoenix International and CH Powell Company. DOI investigators found, however, that IVERSON actually earned between \$21,187 and \$29,717 per year. By underreporting her income, IVERSON's rent ranged from \$398 to \$452 a month. If IVERSON had reported her accurate income accurately she would have paid \$619 a month, the maximum rent for an apartment of that size.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 386 residents, including 118 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.5 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 300 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$4 million in restitution. Since 2005 alone, 7 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$199,000 in government housing benefits.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Staten Island Borough Management Department for its assistance. This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford and Assistant Inspector General James Hylton. The Office of Robert M. Morgenthau, District Attorney, New York County, is prosecuting the matter.

Criminal complaints are allegations. 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.