



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS LANDLORD ON CHARGES OF FORGING AN EVICTION NOTICE
AND USING THE NAME OF A RETIRED CITY MARSHAL**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of ASCARE DOUGLAS, a landlord, on charges that he fraudulently issued a Notice of Eviction in the name of a retired City marshal and served it together with a forged court document on a tenant in his Seward Avenue apartment house in the Bronx. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOUGLAS, 60, of Hartsdale, N.Y., was charged with two counts each of Forgery in the Second Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Anyone who forges a notice of eviction to remove a tenant is breaking the law and risks arrest and prosecution. Landlords know there is a lawful process that must be followed in the Court, so everyone's rights are protected."

DOI began investigating after it was notified by a clerk in the Bronx County Supreme Court that a tenant had come to the Court with a Notice of Eviction bearing the name and badge number of a former City marshal and an index number that could not be matched to any case in the Court.

According to the criminal complaint, in October 2008 the tenant, who resides in a house owned by DOUGLAS, received the forged Notice of Eviction and a fake "Statement for Judgment" supposedly issued by the Bronx Supreme Court and was informed by DOUGLAS that eviction papers had been given to the sheriff and the tenant would be evicted. The investigation revealed that the Notice of Eviction was an altered copy of one that had been issued by a former City marshal who had retired in 2002 and that the Court index number on it was invalid. The investigation also revealed that the "Statement for Judgment" was an altered copy of a court paper that bore the signature and stamp of the Westchester County Clerk on which the word "Westchester" had been removed and replaced with the word "Bronx." The investigation found that during an ongoing dispute regarding unpaid rent the landlord had the documents altered and given to the tenant in an effort to persuade the tenant to move out without pursuing the lawful eviction process through the courts.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and the New York State Office of Court Administration, and their staffs, for their assistance.

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The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, in particular Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright and Confidential Investigator Iuliana Celik, with assistance from DOI's NYPD Investigative Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Brandler of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office's Rackets Bureau is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Rackets Bureau Chief Thomas Leahy.

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. The agency 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 those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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