



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**DOI ARRESTS NYCHA EMPLOYEE/RESIDENT AND HIS WIFE FOR  
DEFRAUDING NYCHA OF MORE THAN \$14,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of an employee of the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") for unlawfully obtaining \$14,964 in rent subsidies. The employee's wife was also arrested.

VICTOR MONTANEZ, 43, and his wife DRENDA, 42, of Brooklyn, have been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

The MONTANEZs have been the tenants of record of a 5-room apartment in NYCHA's Park Rock Consolidated Houses located in Brownsville, Brooklyn since 1988. In the Affidavits of Income they filed with NYCHA from 2001 through 2003, the MONTANEZs alleged that Social Security benefits were the family's sole income source. They did not disclose that VICTOR MONTANEZ has been employed by NYCHA as an electrician/maintenance worker since March 5, 2001 and that he earned between \$39,485 and \$53,044 per year. By failing to report VICTOR's income, the MONTANEZs paid \$93 to \$285 a month in rent. If they had accurately reported VICTOR's income, they would have paid \$619 a month, the maximum rent for an apartment 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 388 residents, including 119 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.6 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 302 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$4 million in restitution. Since 2005, 9 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$210,000 in government housing benefits.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Brooklyn Borough Management Department for its assistance in this case. 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, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton and Special Investigator Emily Bizzarro. The case will be prosecuted by the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are 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.***