



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: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS BICOASTAL TENANT CHARGED WITH
STEALING \$136,866 IN PUBLIC RENTAL SUBSIDIES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of DONNA QUINTER, a former tenant at the Ruppert Yorkville Towers in Manhattan, for concealing income and stealing \$136,866 in rental subsidies from the New York City Housing Development Corporation ("HDC") between 2003 and 2008. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

QUINTER, 54, of Bell Canyon, CA, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, which, upon conviction, is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This tenant, with a residence in California, also enjoyed a great deal on a terrific apartment in Manhattan, courtesy of a public housing subsidy that she obtained by fraud, according to the criminal complaint. Law abiding New Yorkers struggling to pay their rents and mortgages cannot afford to subsidize cheaters who abuse public housing resources to support privileged lifestyles."

Ruppert Yorkville Towers, located at 1619 Third Avenue in Manhattan, is a condominium complex that was originally part of the Mitchell-Lama middle income housing program. In 2001, after the owner chose to withdraw from that program, which effectively removed the apartments from rent regulation, tenants were given the opportunity to purchase their apartments. The New York City Housing Assistance Corporation, an HDC subsidiary, agreed to subsidize the rents of non-purchasing tenants with incomes of up to 80% of the citywide median income. The HDC subsidies equaled the difference between the rents those tenants could afford, based on their household incomes, and the market rate rents for their apartments. To qualify for the HDC subsidy the tenant, when renewing the lease, must file an affidavit, reporting his or her income and that of each person residing in the apartment, which is used to determine the tenant's eligibility for and the amount of the subsidy.

Based on her reported income and household composition, QUINTER received HDC subsidies that by late 2007 exceeded \$2,800 per month, while her portion of the rent for her two-bedroom apartment remained at only \$819 per month. According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation revealed that as of 2003, QUINTER had an unreported roommate residing in her subsidized apartment, and their combined income exceeded the upper income limit for the subsidy by more than \$25,000. As a result of QUINTER'S failure to report her roommate's income, QUINTER, between 2003 and 2008 received \$136,866 in subsidies to which she was not entitled. HDC stopped paying the subsidies, and QUINTER vacated the apartment in early 2009.

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DOI discovered the theft as a result of an investigation initiated in 2008 to verify that HDC's continuing subsidies were benefiting eligible tenants residing in the complex. Investigators found, among other things, that QUINTER had married in 2002 and shared a residence with her husband in Bell Canyon, CA. Further investigation revealed that QUINTER had a roommate who had been residing in the Ruppert Yorkville apartment with her since at least 2003, paying rent to QUINTER, and that the roommate was employed and earning income as a flight attendant, information that QUINTER omitted from lease renewals and related documents.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and HDC President Marc Jahr and their staffs for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for HDC Joseph P. Piazza and Special Counsel Catherine Riccards.

Assistant District Attorney Sally Pritchard of the New York County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

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.

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