



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS NEW YORK CITY POLICE OFFICER ON SECTION 8 FRAUD CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SIMONE SMITH, a police officer with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") charged with attempting to steal \$7,692 in Section 8 rental subsidies from the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") by submitting forged pay stubs and W-2 wage and tax forms that under-reported her income. DOI began its investigation after it was notified by HPD about irregularities in SMITH's recertification documents. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

SMITH, 31, of Queens, is charged with Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, six counts of Forgery in the Second Degree and three counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, class D felonies; and one count each of Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, class E felonies. A class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Everyone, especially a law enforcement officer, should know that forging pay stubs and wage statements to conceal income when applying for public housing subsidies is a crime that will end only in arrest and prosecution. The good news is that HPD alerted DOI and the fraud charged here was stopped before valuable City housing money was lost."

According to the criminal complaint, since about 1998 SMITH was a recipient of public assistance benefits through HPD's Section 8 housing program. DOI's investigation found that in March 2009 SMITH submitted three City pay stubs and three forged wage and tax statement forms to HPD as part of a recertification package, altering the years on the documents. The investigation also found that the forms SMITH submitted to HPD indicated she earned \$32,258 in 2008, when in fact she earned approximately \$58,310. As a result of the false information, SMITH would have obtained approximately \$7,692 in rental subsidies she was not entitled to, had her recertification been approved. SMITH never received those subsidies.

SMITH has been employed by the NYPD since January 2007. She is a police officer, assigned to the 108th Precinct in Queens, and has been placed on modified duty as a result of this investigation.

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Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and their staffs for their cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for HPD, including Investigator Jeré Overton under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Ondie Frederick, Deputy Inspector General David Jordan and Inspector General Peter L. Zanolin.

Assistant District Attorney Jason Cofield of the New York County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to prosecute the case.

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.

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