



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
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REAL ESTATE OWNER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the 2-month prison sentence imposed today on NATALIYA DYAKOVSKAYA, 65, of Manhattan, for defrauding the government of more than \$77,000 by occupying a subsidized New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") apartment for more than 14 years while concealing her ownership of a condominium on Manhattan's upper west side, which she purchased in 1997 for approximately \$700,000, and a house and property in East Hampton, New York that she purchased in 1995 for approximately \$1.4 million. DYAKOVSKAYA, who fraudulently sublet her NYCHA apartment on Madison Street for part of that time, was arrested in April 2012 as a result of a DOI investigation. She pleaded guilty to theft of public money in July 2012 and was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein in federal court in Manhattan. The office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "When a wealthy person holds onto a low-income apartment by hiding income and assets, a needy family is shut out. A prison sentence is a fitting and necessary penalty to deter that kind of deliberate and harmful criminal conduct. DOI will continue to work with our federal and city partners to expose and stop subsidized housing fraud."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York and John B. Rhea, NYCHA Chairman, and their staffs for their work and assistance in this matter.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tatiana R. Martins prosecuted the case.

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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