



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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SECTION 8 LANDLORD AND PARAMOUR TENANT ARRESTED IN \$44K HOUSING SCAM

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of a former Section 8 Landlord and a former Section 8 participant for fraudulently receiving more than \$44,000 in government rent subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority.

Both defendants--Michael Pierre and Violet Liverpool--have been charged with theft of public monies. Defendant Liverpool has also been charged with filing false documents in order to obtain public funds. If convicted, they each face up to a maximum of 10 years in jail.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The lesson these defendants and others would be wise to learn is that, with so many needy New Yorkers on long waiting lists for affordable public housing, the City will not be deceived into providing apartments to people who do not qualify for the scarce subsidized housing."

VIOLET LIVERPOOL, a former Section 8 recipient from 1995 to 2000 in a two-level, five-room apartment in Canarsie, Brooklyn, and co-defendant MICHAEL PIERRE, her Section 8 landlord at the time, have been charged with unlawfully obtaining \$44,252.74 in government rent subsidies from NYCHA between April 1995 to November 2000. DOI's investigation found that while collecting monthly rent subsidies from NYCHA for an apartment supposedly rented to Liverpool and her children, PIERRE was in fact cohabitating with LIVERPOOL in the subsidized apartment. Neither PIERRE nor LIVERPOOL disclosed this living arrangement—which would have made PIERRE and LIVERPOOL ineligible to receive Section 8 rent subsidies—to NYCHA. Investigators also determined that LIVERPOOL made herself eligible for rent subsidies by reporting only welfare or a low income from employment at M.V.P. Hair Salon in Far Rockaway, a business that Pierre owned and Liverpool ran.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing and Borough Management Departments and the United States Housing and Urban Development's Office of the Inspector General for their assistance in the investigations and arrests.

The investigations were conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspectors General Kevin Smith, Assistant Inspector General Bergia Telesford and Special Investigator Louis Vega.

The Office of Roslynn R. Mauskopf, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, is prosecuting the cases. Assistant U.S. Attorney Carrie Capwell is handling the prosecution.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.

DEFENDANT INFORMATION:

1. Violet Liverpool, 39, of 1414 East 102 Street, Brooklyn, NY (\$44,252.74 in rent subsidies)
2. Michael Pierre, 57, (see co-defendant)

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.