



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER



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### **FORMER FISCAL OFFICER SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR STEALING FROM PUBLICLY-FUNDED NONPROFITS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on the prison sentence of CLEMENT GARDNER who pleaded guilty in February to one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony. As part of his plea, GARDNER admitted to an embezzlement scheme in which approximately \$560,000 in charitable assets were taken from two nonprofits that have served the Bronx. GARDNER, 65, the former fiscal officer at Christian Community in Action Inc. (“CCIA”) and Christian Community Benevolent Association (“CCBA”) was charged in December 2012. Bronx Supreme Court Judge Steven Barrett sentenced GARDNER today to a term of between two and six years in prison, and GARDNER was ordered to pay \$560,000 in restitution. The case was prosecuted by the office of New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. A copy of DOI’s investigative findings can be found at the following link:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/dec%2012/pr30gardner\\_121012.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/dec%2012/pr30gardner_121012.pdf)

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “The theft of these taxpayer funds shortchanged the New Yorkers served by these two nonprofits. But investigators uncovered and stopped this defendant’s criminal scheme, holding him to account. This sentence shows that stealing from a publicly-funded nonprofit is a no-win proposition and will end with arrest, prosecution, and prison.”

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York State Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and HRA Commissioner Robert Doar and their staffs for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

Assistant Attorney General Simon Brandler was assigned to this case, and was assisted by Assistant Attorney General Wanda Perez-Maldonado, under the direction of William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau.

The above investigation was conducted by DOI’s Not-for-Profit / Vendor Fraud Unit.

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