MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2003

Statement by DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn on the sentencing of Robert Swinton

Robert Swinton’s avarice led him to extort thousands of dollars from a Harlem shopkeeper who sought to lease commercial space from the New York City Housing Authority. Mr. Swinton’s egregious conduct while employed at NYCHA cast a pall over those who serve this City honestly and well.

DOI is pleased with this sentence and hopes it deters other City employees who consider engaging in corrupt activity. As the initial complaint indicated, DOI’s investigation occurred in the Fall of 2002. We thank the shopkeeper who brought Mr. Swinton’s conduct to light. Those who do engage in criminal behavior should know that DOI is watching and the agency will find you and have you prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law possible. DOI is still investigating other similar types of corruption allegations at NYCHA.