



The City of New York
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**DOI STATEMENT ON THE PRISON SENTENCE OF A FORMER TENANTS' ASSOCIATION OFFICER
FOR DEFRAUDING A CITY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAM OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the sentencing today of a former secretary of a Bronx Tenants Association (TA) for her role in a scheme that removed more than \$30,000 from the building's bank account and then used the funds to pay individuals' credit card, cable, cell phone, and utility bills. The funds should have been used for the building's upkeep. Under the City's Tenant Interim Lease Program ("TIL") administered by the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD"), the TA was supposed to manage the City-owned building at 783 East 168th Street and prepare to operate it as a tenant-owned cooperative.

The defendant, TWANA ROSE, 39 and the former TA secretary, was sentenced in Bronx County Supreme Court today to between 1½ and three years in prison. Her mother ARLETHER MIDDLETON, 65, was sentenced earlier this month to five years of probation and was ordered to pay approximately \$14,000 in restitution. Both of the defendants are from the Bronx.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These defendants abused a City housing program and helped themselves to tens of thousands of dollars that should have been spent on their building. Rightly, both have been convicted of felonies, and one is heading to prison. Stealing from the City's public housing programs is a crime with serious consequences."

DOI arrested the defendants in May 2010 on an indictment obtained by the office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, which prosecuted the case. DOI's release on the arrest can be found at the following link: http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr42middleton.rose05_14_2010.pdf. In January 2011, ROSE pleaded guilty to Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony, and MIDDLETON to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony.

The TIL program offers tenants who live in City-owned buildings an opportunity to manage and eventually buy their apartments from the City and operate the building as a low-income cooperative. The program requires that tenants elect officers and create a TA, which collects rents and deposits them in a TA bank account to pay for building expenses such as maintenance. TAs must submit monthly financial reports to HPD. TIL buildings are assigned financial coordinators and building coordinators.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for HPD, in particular Ghenaida Slack and Ondie Frederick under the supervision of Inspectors General Anastasia Coleman and Peter Zanolin.

Assistant District Attorney Leslie Sturm of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office 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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