



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANT TRIES
TO PAY RENT WITH \$2,000 COUNTERFEIT CHECK**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (“DOI”), today announced the arrest of EMPY CORBETT, an unemployed NYCHA tenant residing at Breukelen Houses, for submitting a counterfeit check as payment for his chronically delinquent rent, totaling more than \$3,000.

CORBETT, 27, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Forgery in the 2nd degree, a Class D Felony; Criminal Possession of a Forged instrument in the 2nd degree, a Class D Felony; Attempted Grand larceny in the 4th degree, a Class A Misdemeanor; and Attempted Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 4th degree, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of 7 years for each count of the D Felony and a maximum sentence of 1 year for each count of the A Misdemeanor.

DOI initiated its investigation after the Assistant Director of NYCHA’s Lock Box Unit reported a \$2,000 check sent to NYCHA for payment of Corbett’s rent was ultimately returned unpaid and marked “counterfeit.”

Investigators determined that the account number on the counterfeit check belonged to a music company. A representative of the company told DOI that the company neither issued the check, nor gave permission or authority for anyone to issue or possess said check.

CORBETT told investigators that a close family friend gave him the partially completed check to assist with his rent delinquency. CORBETT could provide no contact information to DOI for this close family friend. CORBETT admitted that he inserted the payee portion, the amount portion, and his NYCHA account information on the check while in Brooklyn. CORBETT also said the check had already been signed when he received it. CORBETT also told investigators he mailed the check to NYCHA’s Lock Box Unit from a post office in Brooklyn.

Steven A. Pasichow, DOI’s Inspector General at NYCHA, and members of his staff, including Irene Serrapica, Assistant Inspector General and Maia Wade, Special Investigator, conducted the investigation. The case is being handled by the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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