



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**NYCHA SECTION 8 TENANT OPENS A CALLING CARD ACCOUNT  
AND CHARGES NYCHA MORE THAN \$1,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced yesterday's arrest of Jose Pastoriza, a NYCHA Section 8 resident of the Bronx. Pastoriza, without NYCHA's knowledge or permission, used a NYCHA telephone number to apply for and obtain a calling card. He then made more than 1,000 personal calls causing NYCHA to pay Verizon \$1,064.

Pastoriza, 28, a tenant of a federally-funded leased housing program administered by NYCHA known as Section 8, where he receives a government rent subsidy to reside in a privately-owned dwelling in the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

DOI began its investigation after staff at NYCHA's Astoria Houses Community Center in Queens reported that the agency had received several Verizon telephone bills for charges incurred from the use of a calling card assigned to a telephone number at the Community Center. The investigation determined that NYCHA does not issue nor authorize the use of calling cards by its Community Center employees.

The investigation further determined that Valu-Tel Inc. issued the calling card based on receipt of an application completed and submitted by Pastoriza, dated January 24, 2000. That application listed the Community Center telephone number as the number to be billed for all calls made with the card. Based upon DOI's review of the bills from February 2000 to October 2001, Pastoriza made more than 1,000 personal calls totaling \$1,064, which were billed to and paid by NYCHA.

Pastoriza told DOI investigators he opened the account to obtain a calling card and then used the card to call family and friends. He said the NYCHA phone number he provided was the telephone number he used to use to call his mother when she worked at NYCHA's Astoria Houses Community Center.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Borough Offices, Verizon and Valu-Tel Inc., for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation. The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff including Counsel to the Inspector General Judith Abruzzo, Investigative Paralegal Tracy Meisel, and Queens D.A. Detective Richard Lewis. Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Brian Mich of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown's Economic Crimes Bureau, is handling the prosecution.

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

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