



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #028-2001

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2001

BRONX TENANTS' GROUP EX-SEC ARRESTED FOR \$7K THEFT

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of TWANA ROSE, former Secretary of the 783 East 168th Street Tenants' Association (TA) in the Bronx, for stealing over \$7,000 by unlawfully cashing 16 Association checks and retaining the proceeds.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, ROSE, from April to October 2000, was TA Secretary at the City-owned, 8-unit building in the Morrisania section of the Bronx, which is a participant in the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) Tenant Interim Lease Program (TIL). The program requires TA officers to collect rents and deposit them in a TA bank account, pay for building maintenance with TA funds, and submit monthly financial reports to HPD. TA building management officers share a monthly fee--8% of the total rent roll--for their services. Each TIL building is supervised by an HPD Building Coordinator.

Commissioner Kuriansky said the investigation began in November 2000, when the TA reported to HPD that over \$5,000 was missing from the TA checking account at Emigrant Savings Bank at 370 East 149th Street in the Bronx.

The investigation disclosed that ROSE, over a 3-month period from August through October 2000, illegally negotiated 16 TA checks, in amounts ranging from \$374 to \$600, and kept the proceeds, totaling \$7,123.

The investigation further revealed that ROSE had removed the 16 blank checks from the back of the TA checkbook, made them out to herself, purportedly for building maintenance and other expenses, and negotiated them, between August 31 and October 21, 2000, at Tri-Star Check Cashing, 1297 Boston Road in the Bronx, several blocks from the building.

ROSE, 29, of 783 East 168th Street in the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Forgery in the Second Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, all Class D felonies, and Forgery in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, both Class A misdemeanors. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to HPD Commissioner Jerilyn Perine and members of her staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

Bronx Tenants' Group Ex-Sec Arrested For \$7K Theft

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including Associate Accountant Muriel M. Moses.

The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney James Goward is handling the matter.