



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS POSTAL WORKER FOR USING STOLEN MONEY ORDERS TO PAY RENT TO NYCHA

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of ANDREA JAMES for altering two stolen money orders totaling \$1,450 to pay her rent arrears to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA).

JAMES, 40, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Forgery in the 2nd Degree, Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the 5th Degree. If convicted, James faces a maximum of seven years in prison.

Since 1992, JAMES has been the tenant of record for a four-room apartment at NYCHA's Brevoort Houses in the Ocean Hill section of Brooklyn. A mail handler for the United States Postal Service ("USPS"), JAMES somehow obtained two Western Union money orders that an unsuspecting victim had mailed to his landlord to pay two months rent at property not affiliated with NYCHA. JAMES allegedly altered the information on the money orders to make them payable to NYCHA and list her own address. She also allegedly signed her name over the victim's signature. After submitting the money orders to NYCHA, JAMES' rent arrears were reduced by \$1,450.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn also thanked the NYPD and U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their assistance in this matter.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Irene Serrapica and Special Investigator Maia Wade. The case will be prosecuted by the office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

One of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country, DOI 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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