



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
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FORMER HOUSING AUTHORITY TENANT ARRESTED
Worked under false identity to conceal her income so she paid \$466 less in rent a month

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) announced today the arrest of a former tenant of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) whose use of a false identity while employed enabled her to fraudulently receive subsidized housing benefits. The defendant was previously found guilty of Identity Theft in 2004 for using a false identity.

MONICA BAILEY, 39, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third degree, a Class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI investigators determined that BAILEY fraudulently worked under the identity of a friend and the friend's Social Security number while working as a Case Manager for the Woman's Prison Association in Manhattan from May 2002 to February 2004. BAILEY earned \$32,000/year. From February 2004 and January 2005, BAILEY concealed this employment income on Affidavits of Income that she filed with NYCHA and falsely reported that her only income was child welfare. By underreporting her income, BAILEY paid only \$153/month for her 5-room NYCHA apartment at Morris Houses, when she should have paid \$619. As a result, BAILEY allegedly defrauded NYCHA of \$4,080. In 2004, BAILEY was convicted of Identity Theft for fraudulently using the same false identity. She is currently on five year probation.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "In trying to save herself \$466 a month in rent, this defendant's alleged criminal scheme has done nothing to help her and, in fact, may land her in jail. Stealing public benefits hurts taxpayers and the people who need and qualify for the assistance."

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that has resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 459 residents, including 147 City, State and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$8.1 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 354 cases have resulted in convictions and nearly \$5.1 million in court-imposed restitution. Since January 2006, 50 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving nearly \$899,000 in government housing benefits.

The investigation was jointly conducted by NYCHA Supervising Inspector General Vincent E. Green, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso, and Special Investigator Patricia Sedacca. Detective Sergio Conde of the Bronx Detective Squad also worked on this case. The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is handling the prosecution.

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

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5955