



The City of New York
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**DOI STATEMENT ON ARREST OF CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED
WITH FEDERAL HOUSING SUBSIDY FRAUD**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that a joint investigation with the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD OIG") has led to the arrest of GENEVIEVE SIMMONS on charges of concealing her employment with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") and fraudulently obtaining approximately \$40,332 in federal housing subsidies between 2003 and 2007. The office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York is prosecuting the case.

SIMMONS, 47, of the Bronx, has been charged with violating 18 U.S.C. Sections 641, 1001 and 1002 by stealing federal housing benefits and falsely reporting that she was unemployed when in fact her annual earnings as a Correction Officer ranged from about \$58,000 to more than \$84,000. Upon conviction, a violation of 18 U.S.C. Section 641 is punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a violation of 1001 or 1002 is punishable by up to five years in prison. The Section 8 housing subsidies in this investigation were administered by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD").

SIMMONS has been a Correction Officer since 1990 and currently receives an annual base salary of approximately \$70,700.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Every City employee knows better than to falsify records and steal public benefits intended for needy families. This defendant earned a good living as a law enforcement officer, which she has put in jeopardy by engaging in a long-running deception as charged in the complaint."

DOI began working with the HUD OIG after that federal agency reported allegations of Section 8 subsidy fraud to DOI. According to the criminal complaint, SIMMONS received Section 8 benefits through Lambert Houses Redevelopment Corporation ("Lambert Houses"), which administered the housing subsidies for HUD, in connection with a Bronx apartment. Section 8 participants are required to periodically file forms with the Section 8 program providing, among other information, their gross income and/or assets. SIMMONS annually submitted an "Affidavit of Nonemployment" stating: in May 2002, that she was not employed and did not expect to become employed; in March 2003, that she was unemployed because she had no skills; in February 2004, that she was unemployed and looking for work; in February 2005, that she was unemployed because she had no skills; in March 2006, that she was unemployed; and in March 2007, that she remained unemployed because she had no skills, according to the criminal complaint.

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In 2007, the Lambert Houses began requesting tax verification forms from the Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) for tenants enrolled in the Section 8 program and learned that SIMMONS had reported employment income to the IRS but not to the Section 8 program. The investigation found that SIMMONS had been employed as a New York City Correction Officer since 1990 and reported to the federal government that between 2003 and 2007 she earned between \$58,085 and \$84,013.

According to the criminal complaint, as a result of the income misrepresentations, SIMMONS fraudulently received from HUD, between April 2003 and March 2007, approximately \$40,332 in housing subsidies she was not entitled to collect.

The Section 8 housing assistance program is a federal government program for helping low-income individuals to afford housing in the private market. A housing subsidy is paid each month directly to the landlord on behalf of the participating individual, and that individual pays the difference between the actual rent and the amount subsidized by the Section 8 program.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Correction Commissioner Martin F. Horn, and members of his staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanks Lev L. Dassin, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and his staff, for their assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Pablo Quinones is prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of Inspector General, Correctional Services Unit, and Special Agent Stephen Huvane of the HUD OIG.

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

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency 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.

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