



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER NYCHA EMPLOYEE FOR ALLEGEDLY MAKING UNAUTHORIZED ATM WITHDRAWALS
OF ABOUT \$1,500 FROM A QUEENS COMMUNITY CENTER BANK ACCOUNT**
--Withdrawals made between January and June 2005--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of ALFRED KENLAW, a former New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) employee, for allegedly stealing an estimated \$1,500 in NYCHA funds. He is accused of making unauthorized ATM withdrawals, many while he was out on sick leave, from a bank account maintained for NYCHA's Ocean Bay Community Center in Queens, the community center he oversaw.

KENLAW, 57, who had been employed with NYCHA for two decades, is charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E Felony. If convicted, he faces up to 4 years in prison. He no longer works at the community center.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This city employee is accused of taking money from children by padding his pockets with money that was supposed to be used for the summer camp program at the community center. As this arrest shows, DOI is determined to stop this kind of criminal activity."

KENLAW, a NYCHA employee since 1986, worked as the Director/Community Coordinator for NYCHA's Ocean Bay Community Center located in Far Rockaway, Queens. KENLAW was responsible for overseeing the community center and facilitating the youth and teen-related programs offered at the center. He was given access to the community center's petty cash debit card that NYCHA maintained at the center to purchase materials for the center and its youth programs. Instead of using the ATM card for authorized and approved business-related purchases, DOI investigators determined that KENLAW allegedly made approximately 32 unauthorized ATM withdrawals for his personal use. Further, DOI determined that of the 32 unauthorized withdrawals made from various ATM machines throughout the borough of Queens, 28 of them were made while he was out on sick leave in May and June 2005, when the debit card should have been locked in the community center safe.

The investigation was conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Robert J. McSweeney and members of his staff, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Irene Serrapica and Assistant Inspectors General April Mastrangelo and Maia Wade.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Rosemary Buccheri, under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides of District Attorney Brown's Economic Crimes Bureau, is handling the prosecution.

Criminal complaints are 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 directly at (212) 825-5959.