



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS TWO MORTUARY TECHNICIANS IN SEPARATE CHARGED THEFTS**  
*Today's arrest involves a housing fraud complaint.*  
*Earlier arrest involves charge of cash stolen from a reported death scene.*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SHADAAQUA BEY, a Mortuary Technician with the City Office of Chief Medical Examiner ("OCME"), on charges of fraudulently obtaining approximately \$32,525 in Section 8 benefits from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD"). DOI began its investigation after it was notified by HPD about irregularities in the defendant's application. The office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, is prosecuting this case.

Earlier this month, a different Mortuary Technician, DENA EDWARDS, was arrested and charged with stealing \$460 from a reported death scene. EDWARDS'S arrest, on October 7, 2009, resulted from an integrity test that DOI conducted jointly with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") Internal Affairs Bureau ("IAB"). DOI opened the investigation after receiving complaints that money and other items were missing from death scenes. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting this case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "City employees who steal money or anything of value on the job or elsewhere face arrest and criminal prosecution. They should know that DOI scrutinizes City programs where fraud and theft have occurred and that we use all the investigative tools at our disposal to find the facts and stop the wrongdoing. DOI appreciates the invaluable assistance we received here from the NYPD, OCME, and HPD and from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the Kings County District Attorney's Office."

The following are summaries of the two cases:

- SHADAAQUA BEY, 41, of the Bronx, is charged in a federal complaint with theft of public funds in violation of 18, U.S.C. §641. A conviction on this federal charge can result in a sentence of up to ten years in prison. The federally funded Section 8 program serves people with low incomes who are eligible for rental assistance. HPD administers the Section 8 program for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD").

BEY has been employed at OCME since December 2003 and receives an annual salary of approximately \$37,632.

According to the criminal complaint, BEY resided in a Bronx apartment, received Section 8 rent subsidies paid to her landlord, and was required to recertify her income annually to maintain her

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eligibility. DOI'S investigation found that between October 2004 and March 2008, BEY concealed her City employment and income and instead submitted fraudulent recertification records reporting that she was employed at a private company receiving \$200 a week and a fraudulent letter on a purported City letterhead falsely stating that her City employment had been terminated in October 2004. As a result of these misrepresentations, BEY illegally obtained approximately \$32,525 in Section 8 subsidies.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for HPD, specifically, Assistant Inspector General Ondie Frederick under the supervision of Inspector General Peter Zanolin.

Assistant United States Attorney Janis M. Echenberg of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is prosecuting the case.

- DENA EDWARDS, 48, of Brooklyn, is charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Petit Larceny, both class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the arrest charges, on October 7, 2009, DOI conducted an investigation with IAB, in which EDWARDS was observed taking money while inside a Brooklyn residence where she was assigned to recover possible human remains. Immediately after EDWARDS left the building, investigators arrested her and recovered from her \$460 that the investigators had placed in the residence.

EDWARDS has been a Mortuary Technician with OCME since April 2007 and receives an annual salary of approximately \$37,632. As a result of her arrest, she was suspended and faces disciplinary action.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for OCME, including Inspector General Christopher Staackmann, Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander and Special Investigators Danielle Caruso and Christopher Santariello.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara; Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes; NYPD Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly; Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles S. Hirsch; and HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero and their staffs for their assistance in these investigations.

Criminal complaints and arrest charges 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.*

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