



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**TEN ARRESTED FOR TAKING WORLD TRADE CENTER CHARITY UNDER FALSE PRETENSES**  
***-Nine are current or former City employees-***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of 10 individuals (nine current or former New York City employees) who received World Trade Center (WTC) relief funds from private and government charities under allegedly false pretenses. The defendants falsely claimed that their income had been reduced or they had lost their job as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

The defendants, who allegedly defrauded the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross (ARC), Safe Horizon, The September 11<sup>th</sup> Fund and the Small Business Administration of \$55,859, have been variously charged with Grand Larceny, Falsifying Business Records and Petit Larceny. If convicted, these defendants face up to between four and seven years imprisonment.

Today's cases follow a series of investigations that DOI has conducted involving allegations of fraud or theft related to the September 2001 terrorist attacks. The agency's investigative work has led to the arrests of more than 100 people for stealing money from the Municipal Credit Union and dozens of others for their connection in a series of scams defrauding private and government charities. DOI's most recent investigation began with a proactive review of FEMA's database of relief applicants to see if any City employees had applied for aid. DOI looked at more than 400 possible subjects. The investigation is continuing. To date, there are no known instances of New York City employees who lost work or became unemployed due to the World Trade Center disaster.

Defendant information:

1. Carolyn Broughton, 45, a Human Resources Administration (HRA) Eligibility Specialist who lives in Brooklyn, falsely claimed that she operated a street vending business at the corner of Church and Courtland Streets. Broughton further claimed that the alleged business was destroyed on September 11, 2001. As a result of this alleged loss of income, she claimed that she was being evicted. Investigators discovered that she not only had a job but was a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenant who was being evicted because she had not paid her rent since February 2001. Broughton allegedly defrauded FEMA, ARC and the Small Business Administration of \$15,205. She faces up to seven years in jail.
2. Elwood McCauly, 39, a former private Arts Consultant doing business with NYCHA who lives in Queens, falsely claimed that he lost his job with NYCHA on September 11, 2001. Investigators meanwhile determined that McCauly continued his consultant work with NYCHA until his contract ended in December 2001. Investigators further learned that his contract was renewed in January 2002 for another year. McCauly allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$6,220. He faces up to seven years in jail.

3. Alfreda James, 46, a Secretary with NYCHA who lives in Queens, falsely claimed she had not been paid for three weeks when she could not return to work at 90 Church Street because the area had been closed off. She also claimed that her work hours were reduced. Investigators determined that James had been paid in full for the three weeks in question. She allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$1,117. James faces up to four years in jail.
4. Andre Bevans, 23, a College Aide with the Department of Transportation (DOT) who lives in Brooklyn, falsely claimed that he was not paid for two weeks because he was unable to get to his office at 40 Worth Street due to the terrorist attacks. Investigators determined that he received all of his paychecks on time. Bevans allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$4989. He faces up to four years in jail.
5. Erika Glemaud, 24, a College Aide with DOT who lives in Brooklyn, falsely claimed that she became unemployed for three weeks and was working reduced hours because of the WTC disaster. Investigators determined that she was paid for the days that her office was closed and her hours had not been reduced. She allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$8361. Glemaud faces up to seven years in jail.
6. Nadia Omess, 23, a College Aide with DOT who lives in the Bronx, falsely claimed that her work hours had been reduced. Investigators determined that she falsely claimed that she worked more hours than she actually did. She allegedly defrauded ARC of \$2,500. Omess faces up to four years in jail.
7. Korotoumou Fofana, 29, a former College Aide with DOT who lives in Manhattan, falsely claimed that she lost her job as a result of the WTC disaster. Meanwhile, investigators determined that she had left her job with DOT a month before the terrorist attacks. She allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$4,477. She faces up to seven years in jail.
8. Mary White, 56, a Clerical Associate with HRA who lives Queens, falsely claimed that she lost two weeks pay because her office was closed immediately after the WTC attacks. Investigators determined that White was paid for the days that her office was closed. She allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$4093. White faces up to seven years in jail.
9. Evette Risper, 32, a Clerical Associate with HRA who lives in Brooklyn, falsely claimed that she lost three weeks pay after the WTC attacks. Payroll records indicate she had been paid for the days that she was unable to report for work. She allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and ARC of \$5398. Risper faces up to seven years in jail.
10. Earl Cohen, 50, a Clerical Associate with HRA who lives in Manhattan, falsely claimed that he lost two weeks pay. However, payroll records indicate that Cohen was paid for the days he was unable to report for work. He allegedly defrauded Safe Horizon and the September 11<sup>th</sup> Fund of \$3,499. Cohen faces up to four years in jail.

This investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General James Ernst, Special Investigators John Reatz and Maia Wade, and Confidential Investigator Emily Bizzarro. The Office of the New York County District Attorney is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Jonathan Berger will prosecute Glemaud and Risper. ADA Tyrone Hughes will prosecute Broughton, Bevans, Omess and White. ADA Douglas Kaufman will prosecute McCauly, James, Fofana and Cohen.

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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To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***