



The City of New York
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**DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN COUPLE FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING
OVER \$62,000 IN HOUSING BENEFITS**

--Case is part of ongoing, citywide crackdown by DOI and federal prosecutors on housing fraud--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of IGOR KOSOY, 42, and POLINA MORDUKHAYEVA, 38, for defrauding the New York City Housing Authority of \$62,291 in housing benefits by concealing that they resided together.

KOSOY AND MORDUKHAYEVA were arrested Thursday and have each been indicted on the federal charge of Theft of Public Funds.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "As these allegations show, the couple built their own American dream as they siphoned off thousands of dollars from the public coffers. DOI will continue to vigorously pursue these cases with other law enforcement agencies in an effort that has already helped to recoup millions in restitution."

A DOI investigation found that in 1997 KOSOY and MORDUKHAYEVA purchased an apartment in Brooklyn and resided together, concealing their living arrangement from NYCHA, which administers the Section 8 housing choice voucher program. DOI investigators also found that in 2004, the couple sold their apartment and purchased another home. The investigation found that the couple hid their relationship, did not report it to NYCHA and, as a result, received at least \$62,291 in housing benefits.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and state and federal prosecutors in New York that has resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 464 residents, including 147 City, State and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$9.1 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 368 cases have resulted in convictions and \$5.4 million in court-imposed restitution. Since January 2006, 55 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$1,000,000 in government housing benefits.

These investigations were jointly conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Robert J. McSweeney and members of his staff, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso and Confidential Investigator Alexandra Hampton. The Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Inspector General jointly conducted the arrest under the supervision of Special Agent in Charge Rene Febles and members of his staff. The cases are being prosecuted by the Office of Michael J. Garcia, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Assistant U.S. Attorney Anna E. Arreola, under the supervision of Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Grossfield Birger, is handling the prosecutions.

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 at (212) 825-5959.***