



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #24-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2010**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS SECTION 8 LANDLORD, MANAGING AGENT AND TENANT ON CHARGES OF
CONSPIRING TO STEAL \$72,235 FROM THE RENTAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CITY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrests of a Section 8 landlord, her managing agent, and a Section 8 tenant on charges of failing to disclose their familial relationship and fraudulently obtaining \$72,235 in Section 8 rental subsidies that were administered by the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) and funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”). The office of Benton J. Campbell, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Concealing requested and necessary information to circumvent the Section 8 rules and unlawfully obtain subsidies is a reckless endeavor. Individuals who engage in these illegal acts commit a crime and risk arrest and prosecution. DOI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York will continue to work together to expose this type of fraud.”

ELEANOR GARVIN, 69, of the East New York section of Brooklyn, who is also known as “Eleanor Middleton Garvin” was arrested today. Co-defendants ROZALIND GARVIN, 48, who is also known as “Frankiee Rozalind Garvin” and “Rozalind Babb”, and REINA BROWN, 29, who is also known as “Reina Middleton Brown”, 29, both of Jamaica, Queens, were arrested last week on Wednesday, March 31, 2010.

Each of the defendants has been charged with Conspiracy to Defraud the Government, 18 U.S.C. § 371. Upon conviction, this federal offense is punishable by up to five years in prison.

The Section 8 Program involved in this matter is funded by HUD and administered by NYCHA. As part of the program, NYCHA distributes monthly rent subsidies to private landlords on behalf of the Section 8 tenants. According to the Section 8 program regulations, the owner of the property must certify that he or she is not the parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sister, or brother of the Section 8 tenant. DOI’s investigation found that defendants ELEANOR GARVIN, ROZALIND GARVIN, and REINA BROWN conspired to circumvent this rule in order to collect Section 8 rental subsidies.

According to the criminal complaint, ELEANOR GARVIN certified to NYCHA that she was the owner of the property in Jamaica, Queens and that BROWN was the managing agent for the property and could make all decisions about rental agreements. BROWN entered into a lease agreement with ROZALIND GARVIN for the Section 8 apartment and would receive the Section 8 rental subsidies on behalf of ELEANOR GARVIN. On an Additional Landlord Information form submitted to NYCHA, BROWN reported that the owner was not related to the Section 8 tenant. DOI’s investigation found that ELEANOR GARVIN submitted a notarized letter to NYCHA in December 2001 reporting that she was not related to ROZALIND GARVIN; that ROZALIND GARVIN is, in fact, the daughter of ELEANOR GARVIN; that BROWN is the niece of ELEANOR GARVIN; and that BROWN’s receipt of Section 8 rental subsidies on behalf of GARVIN was prohibited. The investigation determined that between February 2002 and March 2008 the defendants illegally obtained \$72,235 in Section 8 rental subsidies.

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DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Benton J. Campbell, and Rene Febles, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the HUD Office of Inspector General and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for NYCHA, specifically Inspector General Kelvin Jeremiah, Deputy Inspector General Anthony Capek, and Confidential Investigator Martin Lintner.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Charlie Rose of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York has been assigned to the prosecution of this case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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