



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2007**

**Release #24-2007  
nyc.gov/html/doi**

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

**MAN ARRESTED BY DOI IS SENTENCED TO 90 DAYS IN CONNECTION WITH AN EXTORTION SCHEME AT A NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today that DENNIS TAYLOR was sentenced to 90 days in jail, followed by five years of probation, in connection with an extortion scheme in which TAYLOR and an accomplice told a New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) contractor and a DOI undercover investigator they would have to pay a \$600 weekly stipend to TAYLOR and his accomplice, otherwise the safety of their businesses could not be guaranteed.

TAYLOR, 50, of Queens, was arrested on August 14, 2006 and he pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, on March 8. TAYLOR was sentenced today in Kings County Supreme Court in Brooklyn.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Mr. Taylor used fear and intimidation to shake down a hardworking contractor working on City construction projects in our NYCHA housing developments. DOI undertook an investigation and Taylor was arrested. Today, Taylor was sentenced on a second-degree Grand Larceny charge. So, while just last month DOI arrested nine contractors working on City projects for offering to pay bribes to cover up prevailing wage violations, in this case DOI conducted its investigation in order to assist a contractor working on a City project. DOI will assist any contractor who may be victimized in this way, and this kind of conduct will not be tolerated. Contractors working for City agencies who confront this type of extortion scheme - or any illegal activity - should know DOI is dedicated to helping them and ensuring a safe work environment for all who work on City projects.”

DOI worked jointly on the investigation with the New York Police Department (“NYPD”) Major Case Squad and the NYPD Housing Bureau. The investigation found that on August 8, 2006 two men known as “Big Sal” and “Abdul” had approached a NYCHA contractor at the Marcy Houses in Bedford-Stuyvesant and asked to get work. After being told that only union workers would be hired, the men told the contractor he would have to pay \$600 each week for protection and security because it was a bad neighborhood and bad things could happen. The contractor paid \$600.

“Big Sal” was later identified as Salodine McRae and “Abdul” was later identified as TAYLOR.

A week later, on Aug. 14, a DOI undercover investigator posing as an employee of the NYCHA contractor told the men this would be the last payment. The men told the undercover investigator that it would be a bad idea to stop the payments because people knew the men were protecting the area and bad things might happen. The undercover investigator gave a final payment of \$600 to the men, who were arrested shortly after driving from the scene.

On December 10, 2006, McRae was murdered in Brooklyn. McRae’s murder has not been connected to this case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Inspector General for NYCHA, Robert J. McSweeney, and members of his staff.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Pamela Bilfield.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.***