



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS QUEENS RESIDENT ON CHARGES OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FRAUD INVOLVING APPROXIMATELY \$89,800 IN BENEFITS RESIDENT WAS NOT ENTITLED TO COLLECT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SHEILA MARTIN on charges she concealed her income to obtain approximately \$42,619 in Section 8 rental subsidies from the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") and approximately \$47,211 in public assistance and food stamp subsidies from the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA"). The office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

MARTIN, 42, of Queens, has been charged with two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and one count of Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, class D felonies, and eight counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI's housing fraud arrests this month demonstrate that concealing income or other relevant information in order to collect housing and other public benefits is a serious crime. Individuals who engage in this illegal conduct will face the consequences of arrest and prosecution."

According to the criminal complaint, MARTIN received Section 8 subsidies from NYCHA between March 2003 and October 2007 in which her rent in a privately-owned apartment in Queens was based, in part, on MARTIN'S representation to NYCHA of her income and household composition. DOI's investigation found that MARTIN was employed with a hotel between 2003 and 2007 and received income between approximately \$20,305 and \$35,108. The investigation also found that MARTIN was married and her husband was employed at the City Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"). However, on the Affidavits of Income filed with NYCHA, MARTIN failed to report her income and in 2003 she also failed to report her husband's income. MARTIN'S husband moved out in 2004. Based on those filings, MARTIN received approximately \$42,619 in Section 8 subsidies between March 2003 and October 2007 that she was not entitled to receive.

According to another criminal complaint, MARTIN, who received public assistance and food stamps from HRA, failed to report her income from the hotel and her husband's income from DPR on recertification forms filed with HRA. Based on those filings, MARTIN received approximately \$30,040 in public assistance

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benefits and approximately \$17,171 in food stamps subsidies between January 2004 and December 2007 that she was not entitled to receive.

Today's arrest follows two other arrests of individuals on Section 8 housing fraud this month. JONATHAN PHILLIPS, a Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("MTA") Station Agent, was arrested Tuesday, March 17, 2009, on charges of concealing his MTA employment income from NYCHA to illegally obtain approximately \$38,229 in Section 8 rent subsidies for an East Harlem apartment. On March 5, 2009, in a separate case, DOI arrested SHEILA CARTER on charges of defrauding NYCHA of approximately \$41,277 in Section 8 subsidies for an apartment located in Harlem. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting both cases. The press release on those two arrests can be found at the following link: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr23phillipscarter\\_31709.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr23phillipscarter_31709.pdf).

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales, HRA Commissioner Robert Doar and Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and their staffs, especially HRA's Bureau of Fraud Investigation, for their assistance on the investigation that led to today's arrest.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Robert J. McSweeney and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Kelvin Jeremiah, Confidential Investigator Tiffany Simmons and Deputy Counsel Laureen Hintz.

Assistant District Attorney Rosemary Buccheri from the Queens District Attorney's Office, under the supervision of Gregory Pavlides of the District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, is assigned to the 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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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**