



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS A NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND SECTION 8 TENANT WHO KEPT A NYCHA APARTMENT IN THE BRONX**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on the arrest of ANA TORRES, a New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) tenant, who is charged with defrauding NYCHA and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) of approximately \$47,000 by concealing household income and assets and retaining dual residences in a NYCHA apartment in the Bronx and a privately-owned, Section 8-subsidized apartment in Newport, Rhode Island. DOI’s investigation began after it was notified by NYCHA that the defendant appeared to be receiving dual housing subsidies. The office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “While many New Yorkers struggle to pay their rent and others confront long waiting lists for public housing, one self-serving individual, using deception and false statements, held down two subsidized apartments in two states for six years, according to the criminal complaint. Her bill has arrived, thanks to the combined efforts of DOI and our partners in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and at HUD’s Office of the Inspector General.”

ANA TORRES, 43, has been charged with Theft of Government Funds and four counts of False Statements. If there is a conviction the federal offense of Theft of Government Funds is punishable by up to ten years in prison and False Statements is punishable by up to five years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, TORRES was a tenant of an apartment in a NYCHA housing development in the Bronx. The NYCHA housing program is subsidized by HUD, and tenants must submit annual Affidavits of Income certifying annual income, assets and household composition, among other things. DOI’s investigation found that on Affidavits of Income filed with NYCHA, TORRES failed to report her actual household composition and income, including the presence of her partner in the apartment and his income, which ranged from \$5,180 to \$59,953. The investigation also found that TORRES was the tenant of record in a HUD Section 8-subsidized apartment in Rhode Island since 2004, and the lease indicated that the unit must be the tenant’s sole residence. The investigation determined that by concealing household income and residence to NYCHA and HUD, between 2004 and 2010 TORRES defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$18,000 and HUD of approximately \$29,000.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, 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.

Assistant United States Attorney Rebecca Mermelstein of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York is assigned to the prosecution

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of Inspector General for NYCHA, specifically Inspector General Kelvin Jeremiah, Counsel to the Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Deputy Inspector General Osa Omoigui, First Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso, and Special Investigator Thomas Kaleda.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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