



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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NYS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYEE BUSTED IN \$12K HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of a New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) resident for unlawfully obtaining \$12,173 in rent subsidies.

RAYNARD CAINES, 58, of South Plainfield, N.J., has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree by the New York County District Attorney’s Office. If convicted, CAINES faces up to seven years in prison.

CAINES, 58, a New York State Department of Labor Senior Safety and Health Inspector, allegedly failed to report to NYCHA that his stepmother, who was a NYCHA tenant at Washington/Lexington Houses in Spanish Harlem, had died on July 25, 1999. CAINES, who at one time had power of attorney for Alberta Green and was listed as her emergency contact, allegedly submitted “Affidavits of Income” to NYCHA after Green’s death that falsely indicated that she was alive, receiving Social Security Benefits, and residing in the NYCHA apartment alone. It is also alleged that CAINES submitted falsified Social Security Award Letters to NYCHA as “proof” of income for Alberta Green—even though she was already deceased. As a result, ‘Green’ paid monthly rent ranging from \$166 to \$176. CAINES, who never lived with his stepmother, allowed a relative, who works as a United States Postal Letter Carrier, to live in the NYCHA apartment while CAINES pretended Green was still alive. The relative was not listed, as required, on ‘Green’s’ annual affidavits for income and household population. Had the relative been a legal tenant and reported his income accurately, he would have paid \$421 a month in rent. Instead, he paid what Green had been charged.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 343 residents, including 111 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$6.6 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 249 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$3.4 million in restitution. Since January 2004 alone, 48 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$700,000 in government housing benefits.

This investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General James Hylton. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked NYCHA’s Manhattan Borough Management Department for its assistance in the investigation.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.