



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**DOI ARRESTS MANHATTAN RESIDENT CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING NYCHA  
OF MORE THAN \$25,000 IN RENT PAYMENTS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of ALBERTHA BULL-MITCHELL, charged with concealing income to avoid paying the full rent for her apartment in the New York City Housing Authority's ("NYCHA's") Riis Houses in Manhattan's East Village. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., obtained the indictment and is prosecuting the case.

DOI's investigation followed a report from NYCHA that a person named "Albertha Bull" with the same date of birth as a NYCHA tenant named "Albertha Mitchell" had filed a lawsuit against NYCHA for an injury reportedly sustained while visiting a friend in Riis Houses.

BULL-MITCHELL, 73, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and four counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "A tenant who benefits from a public rent subsidy and deliberately falsifies income information to avoid paying his or her fair share makes a very foolish bet against being found out and arrested."

BULL-MITCHELL, a resident of NYCHA's Riis Houses since 1968, was known to NYCHA throughout her tenancy as "Albertha Mitchell."

DOI's investigation revealed that from 1999 through September 2008 BULL-MITCHELL had worked at a private health care facility under her married name, "Albertha Bull," earning up to \$26,253 per year, and had omitted that income and other income on affidavits she filed annually with NYCHA. She is charged with filing four false affidavits, from 2005 through 2008. The investigation found that by under-reporting her income, BULL-MITCHELL fraudulently avoided rent charges of approximately \$25,586 from 1999 through February 2008. BULL-MITCHELL'S monthly rent for a two-bedroom apartment ranged from \$155 to \$353 and would have risen to \$495 and, in 2007, \$599 had she reported the income she received as "Albertha Bull."

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and their staffs for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA, Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Osa Omoigui and Special Investigator Christopher France.

Assistant District Attorney Doug Kaufman, under the supervision of Thomas Wornom, Chief of District Attorney Vance's Special Prosecutions Bureau, is assigned to the prosecution.

An indictment is merely 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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