



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS NYPD SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD FOR TRYING TO PAY RENT  
WITH A FORGED UNEMPLOYMENT CHECK**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tenant JUANA ALETRIZ for submitting a forged New York State Unemployment Insurance check worth \$240.30 that had been issued originally to another NYCHA tenant. ALETRIZ used the forged check to make a payment toward her delinquent rent, which had been overdue for many months.

ALETRIZ, 49, of the Bronx, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree; Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, both D Felonies; and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree; and Attempted Petit Larceny, Class A and B Misdemeanors, respectively. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

ALETRIZ has been the tenant of record of a 4-room apartment at NYCHA's Mitchel Houses in the South Bronx since 1986, and has paid anywhere from \$460 to \$495 per month in rent. She has been employed with the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") as a School Crossing Guard since 1997. DOI's investigation began when a NYCHA employee reported that a \$240.30 check sent to the NYCHA Lock Box (rent collection center) as payment for ALETRIZ' rent had been returned by the bank unpaid and "red flagged" due to obvious alterations. Namely, ALETRIZ' name had been handwritten over the true payee's name. DOI Investigators determined that the check had been stolen from another NYCHA tenant, who told DOI ALETRIZ did not have permission to take or alter the check.

When questioned by DOI Investigators, ALETRIZ stated that the check had been placed mistakenly in her NYCHA mailbox and that she attempted to cash the check out because she was delinquent in paying her rent. ALETRIZ stated that she attempted to cash the check at a check cashing establishment located in the Bronx, but was unable to cash the check since it was issued to another person. ALETRIZ told DOI she returned to her NYCHA apartment and altered the check by crossing out the true payee's name and adding her own name and NYCHA account information. She said she mailed the check to NYCHA for her rent payment.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo, and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Irene Serrapica, Acting Assistant Inspector General April Mastrangelo and Confidential Investigator Victoria Crews, conducted the investigation. The case is being handled by the Bronx County District Attorney's Office under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Richard Baker, Chief of the Arson, Auto, Economic Crimes Unit. The District Attorney's NYPD Detective Squad also assisted in the arrest.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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