



**The City of New York
Department of Investigation**

ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release # 42-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI STATEMENT ON SENTENCING OF BRONX WOMAN TO 2½ to 5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR
SCAMMING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS BY FALSELY PROMISING
CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY AND PRIVATE APARTMENTS**

Today, a DOI investigation culminated in the sentencing of JACQUELINE YORRO to 2½ to 5 years in prison for stealing thousands of dollars by falsely promising to provide apartments in New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") developments and private buildings. YORRO, 38, was sentenced today in Bronx Supreme Court. The Office of the Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson prosecuted the case under the supervision of Senior Assistant District Attorney Richard Baker.

DOI arrested YORRO in May 2007 on charges of seven counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; one count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, a class E felony.

According to the criminal complaint, between 2006 and 2007, YORRO defrauded eight individuals of more than \$22,000. In three cases, YORRO posed as a NYCHA employee in the Bronx, told the individuals she could assist them in obtaining housing and received more than \$3,000 from each individual. YORRO was never employed by NYCHA and had no authority to assist anyone applying for NYCHA housing. In five cases, YORRO posed as a real estate broker, which she was not, representing that she could assist individuals in obtaining housing in exchange for money. In four of those cases, the individuals paid YORRO more than \$3,000 each and in one case an individual paid YORRO more than \$1,000.

As part of a plea bargain, YORRO pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, in April 2008. She has remained incarcerated since her arrest.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Stealing money from people by preying on their need for decent housing is a crime that, as this case shows, can lead to prison. DOI is particularly pleased to have exposed and stopped this scam and to have worked with the Bronx District Attorney's Office to ensure that justice was served. People seeking Housing Authority apartments should know that getting assistance with an application or finding housing does not cost a fee. If individuals have questions about NYCHA programs, they can contact a housing authority employee on site, at the applications office."

At the time of her 2007 arrest, YORRO was already on parole having been convicted in September 2004 of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree in connection with a scheme in which she posed as a hospital job recruiter. In that case, YORRO was convicted of taking approximately \$13,880 in fees from 13 individuals and not providing the promised jobs. YORRO was released from prison on parole in October 2006.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked the New York Division of Parole, in particular Parole Officer Ted Davis, for their assistance.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA, Robert J. McSweeney, and members of his staff, including Senior Deputy Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Senior Assistant Inspector General Anthony Capek, Chief Investigator John Reatz and Special Investigator Louis Vega.

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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