



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #43-2010  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010**

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

**DOI ARRESTS QUEENS RESIDENT AND TWO BRONX RESIDENTS, INCLUDING A STATE EMPLOYEE,  
ON CHARGES OF DEFRAUDING CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY OF \$46,710**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrests in separate incidents of a Section 8 recipient and two residents in New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") developments on charges that they concealed household income and composition and defrauded NYCHA of a total of \$46,710. The offices of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson are prosecuting the cases.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Individuals who conceal required information such as income from the City housing authority to garner benefits they're not entitled to will be held accountable. DOI will continue to work with prosecutors and the City housing authority to stop crimes that deplete precious housing dollars."

Today, DOI arrested DANET REDDICK, 31, of St. Albans, Queens, who was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and two counts each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, both class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison. The Queens County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

On Tuesday, May 18, 2010, DOI arrested JACQUELINE COLEMAN, 44, of the Bronx, who was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, class D felonies, and two counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. The Bronx County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, DOI arrested CELIA AQUINO, 46, of the Bronx, who was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. The Bronx County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

According to the defendants' criminal complaints:

- REDDICK participated in NYCHA's Section 8 voucher program in which the defendant's rent in a privately owned apartment was subsidized by NYCHA and payments were made directly to the defendant's landlord. The defendant's subsidies were based, in part, on the household income and composition she reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found that REDDICK was married in May 2003 and that her spouse had a job and earned income that ranged between \$36,708 and \$40,635 between 2007 and 2009, but she did not report his presence in the apartment or his income on affidavits of income filed with NYCHA. As a result of these misrepresentations, between March 2007 and March 2009, the defendant obtained approximately \$21,245 in Section 8 rental subsidies she was not entitled to receive. Assistant District Attorney Rosemary Buccheri of the Queens County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution of the case.

more

- COLEMAN resided in NYCHA's Edenwald Houses on East 229<sup>th</sup> Drive in the Bronx and her rent was determined in part on the household income and composition she reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found that she had been employed as a safety and security officer for the New York State Office of Mental Health's Manhattan Psychiatric Center on Wards Island since December 2005 and between 2006 and 2008 she earned between \$31,056 and \$43,513. The investigation also found that the defendant reported to NYCHA that she was not employed in 2006 and that she failed to file affidavits of income with NYCHA between 2007 and 2009. As a result of her failure to file affidavits of income reflecting that she was employed and the 2006 misrepresentation, the defendant defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$15,391 between May 2006 and April 2009. Assistant District Attorney Victoria Coleman of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution of this case.
- AQUINO resided in NYCHA's Pelham Parkway Houses on Paulding Avenue in the Bronx and the amount of her rent was determined in part by the household composition and income she reported to NYCHA. DOI's investigation found the defendant failed to report to NYCHA the presence in her apartment of another individual and that individual's income, which ranged between \$21,093 and \$31,760 between 2005 and 2008. As a result of these misrepresentations, between February 2006 and August 2009 the defendant defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$10,074. Assistant District Attorney Monica Huang of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution of this case.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, NYCHA's Law and Leased Housing departments, Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and their staffs, for their assistance in these investigations.

These investigations were conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspectors General Bergia Telesford and Anthony Capek, Counsel to the Inspector General Kevin R. Smith, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General Laureen Hintz, Assistant Inspectors General Natalie Wright and Robin Jacknow and Chief Investigators Nancy Roa and Ivonne Alvarado-DeJesus.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. 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.*

**DOI's press releases can also be found at [twitter.com/doinews](https://twitter.com/doinews)  
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**