



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS HRA EMPLOYEE FOR \$25,848 HOUSING FRAUD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SABRINA JOHNSON, a City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") employee and a New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") resident, for unlawfully obtaining approximately \$25,848 in rent subsidies.

JOHNSON, 44, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third and Fourth Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First and Second Degree. If convicted, JOHNSON faces up to seven years in prison.

JOHNSON, the tenant of record since 1989 in several different apartments in NYCHA's Red Hook West Houses, in Red Hook, Brooklyn, allegedly filed false Affidavits of Income with NYCHA from 1999 through approximately 2003. DOI investigators found that JOHNSON failed to report to NYCHA income she received from a private employer in 1999 and 2000, ranging from approximately \$6,000 to \$13,000 a year, and income she received from HRA from 2000 to 2003 ranging from approximately \$14,000 to \$30,000 a year. Instead of reporting her true income, JOHNSON told NYCHA her only income was Social Security benefits she received on behalf of two of her children. As a result, JOHNSON's rent was calculated at a rate ranging from \$85 to \$98 a month. If she had accurately reported her income to NYCHA, JOHNSON would have paid between \$250 and \$619 a month in rent. JOHNSON works as an Eligibility Specialist for HRA and earns approximately \$37,000 annually.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that has resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 393 residents, including 126 City, State, and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$7.6 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 314 cases have resulted in convictions, and over \$4.4 million in restitution. Since 2005 alone, 14 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving over \$302,000 in government housing benefits.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton, and Confidential Investigator Andre Gorelkin. The Office of the Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Brooklyn Borough Management Office for its assistance in the investigation.

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

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.*