



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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MANHATTAN WOMAN STEALS IDENTITY TO ILLEGALLY OBTAIN PUBLIC HOUSING

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") resident, who stole someone's identity in order to become eligible for public housing.

XIU YAN JIN, 39, of Manhattan, has been charged with Identity Theft in the First Degree; Forgery in the Second Degree; Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree; and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, JIN faces up to seven years in prison and possible deportation.

DOI investigators discovered that JIN, who allegedly entered this country illegally, assumed the identity of another person in order to apply for and receive public housing at NYCHA'S Baruch Houses, located on Manhattan's lower east side. JIN, without the rightful owner's knowledge, presented a copy of that person's Resident Alien Card and Social Security Benefit card to unsuspecting NYCHA officials when applying for public housing. Once accepted for public housing, JIN submitted certified Affidavits of Income to NYCHA's Management from 1995 until 2004 and regularly listed the other person's pedigree information as her own. JIN also used her new found identity to obtain a New York State Driver's License. Additionally, she worked at a local factory and paid Federal, State, and City income taxes under the assumed name and social security number. JIN's scheme came to light when the victim, who has never resided in public housing and has lived out of state for at least 10 years, received a notice (which contained the NYCHA address) from the Internal Revenue Service informing her of underreported earnings in New York, thereby prompting her to contact DOI authorities. When questioned by DOI investigators, JIN admitted that she was an illegal immigrant with no identifying papers and that she used the other person's documents to reap the benefits of public housing.

Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked NYCHA's Manhattan Borough Management Department for its assistance in this case. The investigation was conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton, and Confidential Investigator Emily Bizzarro. The case is being prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*