



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CITY EMPLOYEE AND DAUGHTER ARRESTED IN \$27,000 CHILDCARE FRAUD SCHEME**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), and PAUL BALUKAS, Inspector General for the New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General (OWIG), announced today the arrests of LORRAINE GREEN, a Real Property manager with the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and her daughter, public assistance client OMARI WEEKS, for defrauding the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) of \$27,160.20 in childcare funds administered through the public assistance program.

GREEN, 50, of Rosedale, Queens, and WEEKS, 26, of Flushing, Queens, will be charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, they each face up to 7 years in prison.

This investigation began when DOI and OWIG received separate but similar complaints alleging that GREEN and WEEKS had been defrauding HRA of public assistance money for childcare costs for WEEKS' children, now ages six and nine.

The investigation determined that WEEKS filed in January 2002 an application for childcare services with HRA in which both WEEKS and her mother, GREEN, certified that GREEN was providing childcare services to WEEKS' children on a full-time basis (30 hours or more per week), Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 6 PM.

HRA approved this application based upon the information provided by WEEKS and GREEN. As a result, HRA issued GREEN 35 checks totaling \$27,160.20 from February 13, 2002 through January 5, 2005 for supposedly rendering childcare services to WEEKS' children. However, City personnel records indicate that GREEN was employed full-time by HPD during this same time period, and from 9AM to 5PM, Monday through Friday. GREEN never actually provided child care services to her grandchildren during the time period in question.

GREEN negotiated each of the HRA childcare checks and gave the money to WEEKS, who, in turn, gave GREEN approximately \$100.00 from each check.

GREEN has been employed by HPD as a Real Property Manager since August of 1988. She earns a salary of \$40,220 per annum and is assigned to HPD's Amboy Street office in Brooklyn. She was suspended from her employment upon her arrest.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HRA Commissioner Verna Eggleston and her staff for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted jointly by DOI's Inspector General for HRA Benjamin Defibaugh and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Caputo and Confidential Investigator Sharon Young, and OWIG Chief Investigator Joseph Bucci and members of his staff including Confidential Investigator Ismael Zayas.

This case will be prosecuted by Assistant Counsel Joseph Burruano of the Welfare Inspector General's office, who has been designated a Special Assistant Attorney General by the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Criminal complaints are 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.*

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