



The City of New York
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Release #58-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2010**

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**DOI STATEMENT ON GUILTY PLEA OF FORMER HPD SUPERVISOR TO 26 COUNTS OF RECEIVING BRIBES
IN EXCHANGE FOR SELLING SECTION 8 VOUCHERS AND SUBSIDIES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”) issued the following statement on today’s guilty plea of a former supervisor at the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (“HPD”) to 26 counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and one count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. JOBA CORTORREAL, 39, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 6, 2010 before Acting State Supreme Court Justice Steven Barrett. She was indicted in 2008 as part of a wide-ranging investigation that began from an anonymous tip received by DOI and culminated in the arrests of 19 individuals. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Joba Cortorreal abused her supervisory position with HPD by trading Section 8 vouchers, and her integrity, for cash payoffs. Her crimes and those of her co-defendants created a black market for these highly valuable subsidies and meant that precious dollars were siphoned from needy and eligible individuals. Today’s guilty plea underscores that the City and its law enforcement partners will not stand by while housing subsidies are used as barter for personal profit. I commend the DOI investigators and the Bronx District Attorney’s Office for their methodical and tireless work in exposing this corruption.”

CORTORREAL was employed at HPD from October 2002 until her termination in October 2006.

DOI’s press release on the indictment stemming from this investigation can be found at the following link:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr64hpdfraud_71008.pdf.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and HPD Commissioner Rafael E. Cestero and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

DOI’s Office of Inspector General for HPD conducted this investigation and received assistance from the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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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