



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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Release # 05-2005  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2005**

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**DOI ARRESTS NYCHA EMPLOYEE FOR FORGING HER DOCTOR'S NOTES**  
*-- She was out sick with 'bronchitis' --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of New York City Housing Authority employee LAKISHA MARTINEZ for submitting forged doctor's notes to NYCHA to obtain paid sick leave from work.

MARTINEZ, 32, of Queens, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

MARTINEZ, a NYCHA Caretaker since 1996 and currently assigned to NYCHA's Redfern Houses in Queens, submitted five false doctor's notes between September 2004 and January 2005 to guarantee getting paid for days she did not work. Martinez, who is chronically absent from work, submitted these forged doctor's notes as proof that she was legitimately sick and, therefore, deserving of paid leave. The notes were purportedly completed by a doctor affiliated with a medical center in Queens. Some of the notes misspelled bronchitis as "broncitis." DOI investigators met with the doctor who indicated that, although Martinez has been a patient of the clinic in the past, Martinez had not been under her care since 2001. The doctor stated that she had not completed the notes that Martinez had submitted to NYCHA, which bear the doctor's initials and stamp.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Queens Borough Management Department for its assistance.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Kevin Smith, Acting Assistant Inspector General Rosemary Caruso, Confidential Investigator Alexandra Hampton and Assistant Counsel Lauren Hintz. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Gregory Pavlides, Bureau Chief, of District Attorney Brown's Economic Crimes Bureau, is handling the prosecution.

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.*