



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE OFFICE OF THE BRONX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FOR ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTING FORGED CITY PAY STUBS TO OBTAIN A LOW-INCOME
APARTMENT THROUGH THE CITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of GA'KIA GRAY, a former employee of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, for allegedly falsifying her income on documents submitted to the City in order to qualify for a low-income apartment regulated by the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC).

GRAY, 28, of Manhattan, has been arrested on five counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, and one count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

GRAY began working at the Office of the Bronx District Attorney in July 2006. She was earning an annual salary of \$26,643 as a community assistant when she was terminated in July 2007.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Falsifying information to obtain a low-income apartment is a criminal act that deprives other, more deserving individuals from obtaining desperately needed affordable housing in New York City. DOI will continue to thoroughly investigate such cases. Fraudsters willing to scam the City should know there are serious consequences to their actions."

In May 2007, DOI received a complaint from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office that GRAY provided false information on a housing application she submitted in October 2006 to the 61st Street Apartments, a privately-owned, HDC-regulated, low-income housing development located at 33 West End Ave. in Manhattan. In order for GRAY to qualify for a \$590 per month apartment at this development, her annual income could not exceed \$24,800 a year. The investigation, conducted with the assistance of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, found that GRAY submitted an application that indicated her annual salary was \$24,500. However, GRAY's actual annual income at the time she applied was \$25,618. As part of the application process, when GRAY was asked to provide proof of her income, she allegedly provided HDC with falsified City pay stubs and allegedly submitted a falsified employment verification affidavit, all of which she claimed had been issued by the Office of the Bronx District Attorney. GRAY was approved for the

apartment based on these documents and in June 2007 she began living at the 61st Street Apartments. The investigation found the Bronx County District Attorney's Office did not issue these documents.

On July 11, 2007, the Bronx District Attorney's Office terminated GRAY based on DOI's findings during the investigation.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HDC President Emily Youssouf and her staff for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by HDC Inspector General Joseph P. Piazza and Special Counsel Catherine Riccards, with the assistance of Lieutenant Rocco Galasso of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office and Assistant District Attorney Susan Ferrucci of the Rackets Bureau of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

Assistant District Attorney Aaron Sato from the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

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.

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