



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS NYCHA EMPLOYEE FOR TRYING TO HELP WIFE GET A NYCHA APARTMENT

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of ANGEL VALE, a Housing Assistant with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), for using his position to expedite his wife's application for public housing with NYCHA.

VALE, 32, of New Rochelle, has been charged with Official Misconduct. If convicted, he faces a maximum of one year in jail.

Since 2002, VALE has worked as a Housing Assistant in NYCHA's Manhattan Applications Office, which screens and processes applications for NYCHA public housing. NYCHA is the largest public housing authority in North America. With 345 developments throughout the City, NYCHA provides housing to approximately 417,000 residents. The waiting list for NYCHA housing is approximately 10 years long. The average monthly rent is \$320.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a tip that VALE had interviewed his wife in November 2003 regarding her application for NYCHA housing. In this preliminary interview, which is conducted on a rotating basis by Housing Assistants, applicants are asked for basic pedigree information: their family make-up, income, and prior residences. NYCHA policy prohibits employees from being involved in cases in which they are acquainted with applicants. DOI investigators also determined that Vale tracked his wife's application and asked a number of co-workers to focus and/or work on her application, thereby shortening the timeframe in which her application was processed. VALE's wife, who does not have the same last name, never received NYCHA housing, but did get close to the end of the application process before VALE's activities were discovered.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant wrongly used his position to benefit a relative and to the potential detriment to hundreds of other New Yorkers who follow the rules and apply for subsidized housing. While this conduct does not represent the vast majority of City employees, it cannot be tolerated."

The Commissioner also thanked NYCHA's Housing Applications Department for its assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Confidential Investigator Tracy Meisel. The Office of the New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting.

Criminal charges are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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