



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS CASE MANAGER WITH CITY HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ON CHARGES OF BRIBE RECEIVING AND ATTEMPTED THEFT OF CITY FUNDS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of JAVIER PEREZ, a Case Manager for a benefits program administered by the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD"), on charges of obtaining benefits for an individual and then soliciting \$1,000 from the individual who was not implicated in the matter. DOI began its investigation after being notified by HPD about the matter. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

PEREZ, 47, of the Bronx, was arrested and charged on Thursday, July 16, 2009, with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class E felony; and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Official Misconduct, which are class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "City employees don't receive finders' fees for distributing housing subsidies or doing their jobs. Any City employee who engages in this criminal conduct faces prosecution. I thank HPD for immediately reporting the matter to DOI. As a result of their quick action, we were able to foil this defendant's scheme."

HPD's Family Self Sufficiency ("FSS") program is a federal program administered by HPD, which provides an incentive for Section 8 recipients to find jobs. If wages from a new job decrease the participant's Section 8 subsidies, the amount of the decrease is deposited into an interest-bearing account and the funds accrued in that account are then transferred to the participant at the completion of the program.

PEREZ was hired in February 2008 as a Case Manager for the FSS program and received an annual salary of approximately \$38,444. His responsibilities included reviewing FSS participant files to identify accounts that should have been closed because the participant completed the program.

According to the criminal complaint, in May 2009, PEREZ approached an individual who had completed HPD's FSS Program in October 2004 and who had already received a check from HPD for the funds in her account. DOI's investigation found that PEREZ gave the individual a letter dated April 28, 2009, which was also signed by PEREZ, indicating the individual was entitled to another check for several thousand dollars. PEREZ told the individual that he wanted \$1,000 since she was only entitled to some of that money. A week

later, in a DOI covert operation, PEREZ was captured on a DOI surveillance camera receiving the bribe and counting the cash.

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

This investigation was conducted by Deputy Inspector General David Jordan and Assistant Inspector General Ondie Frederick, under the supervision of HPD's Inspector General Peter L. Zanolin, and with the assistance of DOI's Squad of NYPD Detectives.

Prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Imran Ahmed, under the supervision of Chief of the Rackets Bureau Thomas Leahy, at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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