



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CITY SANITATION EMPLOYEE ON A
FEDERAL CHARGE OF STEALING THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS IN SECTION 8 SUBSIDIES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of RAFAEL ROSARIO, a City Department of Sanitation ("DSNY") employee, who was charged with concealing his income from his City job and collecting approximately \$12,000 in Section 8 housing subsidies that he was not entitled to receive. The office of Michael J. Garcia, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, is prosecuting the case.

The Section 8 Rental Assistance Program is a federal government program for helping low-income individuals to afford housing in the private market. A housing subsidy is paid each month directly to the landlord on behalf of the participating individual, and that individual pays the difference between the actual rent and the amount subsidized by the Section 8 program. The Section 8 housing subsidies in this investigation were administered by the New York City Housing Development Corporation ("HDC") and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD").

ROSARIO, 28, of the Bronx, has been charged with violating 18 § U.S.C. 641, for fraudulently obtaining approximately \$12,000 from HUD between May 2006 and December 2007. A conviction of violating 18 § U.S.C. 641 carries a punishment of up to ten years in federal prison.

DOI obtained a list of all City employees who were receiving Section 8 subsidies at properties where HDC was administering the housing subsidies. Today's arrest stems from DOI investigators comparing the income City employees reported to HDC to collect Section 8 subsidies, with the employees' actual income listed in the City's payroll records.

According to the criminal complaint, ROSARIO, who resided in a Section 8 subsidized apartment in the Bronx during 2006 and 2007, reported that he was working at FedEx during those years and was receiving income of only \$7,800 annually. City records revealed that ROSARIO was actually employed by DSNY as a Sanitation Worker since May 2006 and in 2006 and 2007 received annual salaries of between approximately \$26,000 and \$33,300. DOI's investigation found that ROSARIO was never employed by FedEx and, as a result of the misrepresentations, he collected approximately \$12,000 in Section 8 subsidies he was not entitled to receive.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's arrest follows a similar arrest DOI made in June and underscores our commitment to rooting out Section 8 housing fraud and protecting these valuable resources.

City employees who intentionally conceal income in order to collect higher rent subsidies are committing a crime and they will be apprehended. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for working with us to put an end to this fraud."

In June 2008, DOI arrested a teacher with the City Department of Education who was charged with misrepresenting her income to collect approximately \$27,000 in Section 8 housing subsidies she was not entitled to receive. The press release for that arrest can be found at the following link: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/54aponte06-20-2008.pdf>.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HDC's President Marc Jahr and members of his staff for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by HDC Inspector General Joseph P. Piazza and Special Counsel Catherine Riccards.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Burns of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.**