



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS WOMAN FOR \$18,000 HOUSING FRAUD**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a security guard for allegedly stealing more than \$18,000 in government rent subsidies.

MONIQUE THOMAS, 34, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a D Felony, and Offering a False Instrument in the First Degree, an E Felony. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in jail.

From February 1, 1999 through September 30, 2003, THOMAS lived in Queens while she illegally sublet her four-room apartment in the New York City Housing Authority's Pink Houses in East New York. In documents filed with NYCHA, THOMAS falsely claimed she still resided in the apartment and that her sole source of income was derived from public assistance. In fact, she was employed as a security guard. As a result, THOMAS paid \$137 in rent each month when she should have paid \$495. This scheme defrauded NYCHA of \$18,060.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The City will not be deceived by those who do not qualify for scarce subsidized housing. DOI will continue to investigate housing fraud so that tax payers' money is not wasted and so that those who need and qualify for affordable public housing will receive it."

This arrest is part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI, local District Attorneys and United States Attorneys that has resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 297 residents -- including 98 City, State and Federal employees -- charged with stealing more that \$6 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Brooklyn Borough Management Office for its cooperation and assistance during the course of the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General James Ernst, Assistant Inspectors General James Hylton and Irene Serrapica, Special Investigators Christopher France and Maia Wade and Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General Karen Cohen. The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

One of the law-enforcement agencies in the country, DOI 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 make complaints about someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***