



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION:**  
**MARRIED COUPLE SENTENCED FOR STEALING OVER \$49K IN HOUSING SUBSIDIES**

Today in Manhattan Federal Court former Section 8 recipient RAQUEL AROCHO D'SARONNO was sentenced to 10 months imprisonment and 3 years supervised release for defrauding the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) of \$49,184 in Section 8 housing subsidies. Her husband, a former Section 8 landlord, ANDINO D'SARONNO was sentenced on October 13, 2006 to 5 years of probation and 6 months home confinement. Both have been held jointly and severally liable to pay full restitution in the amount of \$49,184.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "In a twist on government-subsidized housing, these scammers have found themselves confined to home or living in a new home, behind bars. I am pleased with the serious nature of these sentences because they underscore the fact that DOI will not allow unscrupulous Section 8 tenants or landlords to steal much-needed housing subsidies."

A DOI investigation led to the 2005 indictment of RAQUEL, 40, and ANDINO, 41, of Staten Island, for theft of public monies. That investigation revealed that the D'SARONNOs had concealed from NYCHA their marriage and that they had been living together since July 1998 at a single-family home in Midland Beach, Staten Island that ANDINO owned and for which he served as a Section 8 landlord. RAQUEL, a Section 8 recipient since 1990, moved to the Midland Beach property in June 1998 and told NYCHA she was renting this single family home from ANDINO for herself and her children. She continued to use her maiden name, 'AROCHO,' after she married ANDINO a month later. Neither RAQUEL nor ANDINO disclosed their marriage or living arrangement to NYCHA. Such disclosure would have made RAQUEL ineligible to receive Section 8 rental subsidies and D'SARONNO ineligible to maintain his status as a Section 8 landlord. As a result, NYCHA paid ANDINO rental subsidies ranging from \$638 to \$772 a month to which he was not entitled from June 1998 through January 2004. In total, NYCHA overpaid ANDINO \$49,184.

Not only did RAQUEL and ANDINO conceal that they were husband and wife, rather than landlord and tenant, but RAQUEL concealed her assets and income including real estate the couple jointly purchased in Florida in 2001, and the home they purchased for \$559,935 in 2003 at 326 Eltingville Boulevard, Staten Island.

After learning that RAQUEL and ANDINO were in the process of selling their Staten Island residence, DOI investigators filed on October 17, 2006 a Notice of Pendency against the couple and their Eltingville property. That document notified the property's buyers and sellers that \$49,184 in forfeiture would be sought from ANDINO. That forfeiture will reimburse NYCHA for the stolen subsidies.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing Department for their assistance in the investigation and federal prosecutors from the Southern District of New York for handling the prosecution.

The investigation was conducted by NYCHA's Office of the Inspector General, including Deputy Inspector General Bergia Telesford, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton, Special Investigator Emily Bizzarro and Deputy Counsel Lauren Hintz. The office of Michael J. Garcia, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted the cases. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Zornberg was in charge of the prosecutions.

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