



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #97-2009
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009

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**DOI ARRESTS MANHATTAN RESIDENT ON CHARGES OF
DEFRAUDING CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY OF APPROXIMATELY \$13,000 IN RENT PAYMENTS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of OTIS DRAKE, 54, on charges that he concealed his wife’s income and defrauded the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) of approximately \$13,077 over seven years. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

DRAKE has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and three counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Concealing income to obtain public housing assistance from the City Housing Authority is a crime that diverts limited resources from eligible families and will result in arrest and prosecution.”

DOI began investigating after it was notified by NYCHA about irregularities in documents filed by DRAKE.

According to the criminal complaint, between November 1999 and July 2006 DRAKE and his wife were tenants in a NYCHA development on St. Nicholas Avenue. His rent was determined, in part, by the household income he reported to NYCHA. DOI’s investigation found that during that time DRAKE failed to report his wife’s income with a home health care agency. As a result of concealing that income, DRAKE defrauded NYCHA of approximately \$13,077.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Acting Inspector General for NYCHA, Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Osa Omoigui and Special Investigator Dorothy Vann.

Assistant District Attorney George Bronner of the New York County District Attorney’s Office, under the supervision of Special Prosecutions Bureau Chief Tom Wornom, is assigned to the prosecution of the case.

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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