



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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NYCHA EMPLOYEE BUSTED FOR SUBMITTING A FORGED DOCUMENT TO GET FOOD VOUCHERS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) employee and resident for submitting a forged NYCHA income verification letter to the Women, Infant and Children Program, (WIC), in order to qualify for the supplemental food program for low income women and children at nutritional risk. She fraudulently received approximately \$240 in these benefits.

THAIMI MORENO, 35, a Housing Assistant working in NYCHA's Manhattan Application's Office, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, and Petit Larceny. If convicted, MORENO faces up to seven years in prison.

MORENO, who has lived in NYCHA's Holmes Towers on the upper East Side since approximately 1994, allegedly filed with WIC in or about March 2004, a letter verifying her NYCHA income that was purportedly signed by her supervisor. DOI investigators learned that MORENO created and signed this letter – without the knowledge or permission of her supervisor – that understated her annual NYCHA income by approximately \$10,000. If MORENO had represented accurately her income to WIC, she would have been declared ineligible to participate in the program. Investigators also determined that MORENO received approximately \$240 in WIC benefits in 2004 to which she was not entitled as a result of the falsified and forged income verification letter to WIC.

MORENO has been a NYCHA employee since approximately 1998.

This investigation was conducted jointly by DOI's Inspector General for NYCHA Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff including Deputy Inspector General Irene Serrapica and Special Investigator Maia Wade, and by the NYS Department of Health, Investigative Services Unit, Deputy Director, George Hartoularos, and Chief Investigator, Fred Fogel. MORENO will be prosecuted by the Office of the New York County District Attorney, Robert Morgenthau.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*