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CUNY EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR DEFRAUDING
NEW YORK'S PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAM

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and KENNETH DONOHUE, Inspector General of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"), announced the arrest today of ANNIE PUTMAN, an employee of the City University of New York ("CUNY"), for defrauding the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") of over \$24,000 in housing subsidies.

NYCHA operates public housing facilities throughout the City of New York, for which HUD is the primary source of funding. To be eligible to reside in public housing, tenants must satisfy certain criteria, including having incomes within or below a stated range. Public housing tenants are eligible for reduced rent based on income and ability to pay. Because the rental income from public housing tenants does not meet NYCHA's operating costs, HUD subsidies cover the shortfall. Tenants must submit income information every year to establish their continued eligibility to participate in the program, and to determine their actual rent.

According to the Complaint filed in Manhattan federal court, PUTMAN fraudulently received over \$24,000 in housing subsidies from July 1997 through March 2006 by under-reporting

her income to NYCHA. PUTMAN also failed to report to that she maintained alternative residences outside of New York City.

PUTMAN is charged with one count of theft of government funds and one count of making false statements to the government. She was presented earlier today before Magistrate Judge MICHAEL H. DOLINGER and was released on her own recognizance. If convicted, PUTMAN faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA, and thanked HUD for its assistance in the case. Assistant United States Attorney CHRISTIAN R. EVERDELL is in charge of this prosecution.

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