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BRONX WOMAN WHO SCAMMED IMMIGRANTS IN APARTMENT SCHEME PAYS \$60,000 RESTITUTION, IS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS PROBATION

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark today announced that a Bronx woman has been sentenced to three years probation after paying restitution in the amount of \$60,346 stolen from 21 immigrants in a scheme promising affordable apartments in city-owned buildings.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant preyed on hardworking immigrants desperate for affordable housing, taking amounts from \$1,620 to \$3,240 for deposits on apartments, which were enormous sums for the victims. We are pleased to recover more than \$60,000 for them.”

District Attorney Clark said the defendant, Jennifer Ricardo, 42, of Decatur Avenue, the Bronx, was sentenced today to three years probation after paying restitution in the amount of \$60,346, including processing fees, by Bronx Supreme Court Justice Guy H. Mitchell. On November 16, 2022, Ricardo pleaded guilty to third-degree Grand larceny was re-sentenced to petit larceny after paying back the stolen funds.

According to the investigation, between June 2019 and September 2020, Ricardo posed as a real estate broker or an employee of city housing agencies. She targeted Spanish speaking immigrants, primarily from the Dominican Republic, accepting rent payments and security deposits for apartments in Bronx buildings. The would-be renters never received keys or got the apartments and could not get in contact with Ricardo after they paid her.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Counsel Alan S. Alvarez, under the supervision of Michelle Milanes, Deputy Chief of Economic Crimes Bureau, and Herman Wun, Chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau, under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistants Diane Morgan and Cindy Murillo of the Economic Crimes Bureau, BXDA Principal Accountant Investigator Julio



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Santiago, BXDA Principal Accountant Investigator James Antonino, and BXDA Senior Rackets Investigator Brendan Sullivan, for their assistance in the investigation.

District Attorney Clark thanked Police Officer John Istorico of the NYPD Bronx Grand Larceny Squad for his assistance in the investigation. District Attorney Clark also thanked the New York City Department of Investigation, New York City Housing Preservation and Development, New York City Housing Development Corporation, and Safe Horizon for their assistance.