



Published in the

DAILY NEWS

NYCHA Plumber Racks up \$228G in Overtime, Making More Money than Mayor and Police Commissioner

By Erin Durkin

August 3, 2016

A NYCHA plumber jumped to the top spot among city overtime earners with a whopping \$228,633 in extra pay — as the number of city workers bringing in six figure overtime payments skyrocketed.

Vincenzo Giurbino, a Brooklyn plumber, was tops among 163 city workers who padded their pay with at least \$100,000 in overtime in the 2016 fiscal year — more than doubling the 68 employees who hit that mark the year before.

He's not the only NYCHA plumber bringing in big bucks — the authority's plumbers and supervisor plumbers were eight of the city's top 10 overtime earners in the year that ended in June.

And the total number of city employees making six figures in overtime soared by 140%, according to payroll records obtained by the Daily News under the Freedom of Information Law.

Three workers last year topped \$200,000 in overtime — a mark no one hit in 2015.

The list excludes cops and district attorneys' employees.

Giurbino, a 13-year NYCHA veteran, clocked 1,684 overtime hours last year, records show.

Including his regular salary and other payments, he made a total of \$379,384 — easily outstripping NYCHA chair Shola Olatoye, who made \$226,042, not to mention Mayor de Blasio and outgoing Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.

In the No. 2 spot was Kevin Higgins, a NYCHA supervisor plumber in Manhattan, who brought in \$205,060 in overtime. Then came Curtis Pierre, a senior stationary engineer for the Department of Correction, who racked up \$203,659.

NYCHA supervisor plumber William Naddeo, who has topped the city overtime list in the past, remained in the top four with \$196,723.

The number of workers earning over \$100,000 in overtime has increased fivefold in just two years, from 31 in the 2014 fiscal year. The Department of Correction had 82 employees making six figures in overtime, NYCHA had 45, and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services had 12.



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“It’s eye-popping. It’s also concerning,” said Maria Doulis of the Citizens Budget Commission. “The fact that people are earning so much overtime suggests there aren’t enough controls in place.”

In total, the city paid out about \$1.698 billion in overtime as of June, up from \$1.659 billion for the 2015 fiscal year, according to the Independent Budget Office.

NYCHA plumbers have dominated the top of the overtime list for years – and as the Daily News reported, the cash-strapped agency keeps shelling out the extraordinary overtime payments in part because plumbers work regular day shifts during the week, so all work after-hours and on the weekends requires overtime.

In addition, supervisors are required to be on duty whenever any plumber is on duty, and tradespeople have been forced to spend thousands of hours just searching for parts whose storage locations weren’t tracked.

There are no citywide limits on how much overtime agencies may pay, a spokeswoman for Mayor de Blasio said.

In a statement, NYCHA said, “Decades of government disinvestment have crippled NYCHA’s infrastructure, which has compounded the capital needs and challenges our workforce faces. Plumbers respond to emergencies 24 hours a day – which range from major flooding to persistent leaks – one of the primary causes of mold. As NYCHA becomes a more efficient and effective landlord under NextGeneration NYCHA, we are working to reduce overtime and create more flexibility in our workforce, while ensuring we improve the quality of life at our developments.”