



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS SCOFFLAW FIELD AGENT OF PRIVATE PARKING ENFORCEMENT COMPANY ON CHARGES OF BRIBE RECEIVING AND PETIT LARCENY IN QUEENS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest of scofflaw field agent CARLOS GARCIA on charges of asking for and receiving a partial cash payment from a customer who owed approximately \$350 in parking fines in exchange for preventing an electro-mechanical boot on the individual’s car tire that would immobilize the vehicle. The customer paid GARCIA \$100, but was later towed. GARCIA was employed by PayLock IPT LLC, a private company working with the City Deputy Sheriffs to identify vehicles connected to unpaid parking tickets and other fines. GARCIA was not authorized to accept cash payments directly from the public. DOI immediately began its investigation after it received the allegation in late January that a cash payment had been made by a customer to a PayLock field agent. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “City motorists interested in clearing their fines should not be asked to provide cash to a private contractor’s field agent. The City has no tolerance for individuals who shake down citizens trying to resolve unpaid tickets.”

GARCIA, 42, of Queens, N.Y., was charged with Commercial Bribe Receiving in the Second Degree and Petit Larceny, class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, on January 24, 2013, at about 2:45 p.m., the defendant, who was employed by PayLock and not authorized to accept cash from the public as payment for parking fines, was on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens scanning various license plates for failure to pay parking tickets. The defendant saw a motorist at a car identified as having outstanding fines, and approached the motorist and said he could place a boot on her car. The motorist asked for additional information and the defendant asked if the motorist had money. The motorist replied \$100. The defendant indicated the motorist could pay him \$100 and then had 10 days to pay the balance of the fines. The motorist gave the defendant \$100 in cash and a boot was not placed on the car. The investigation confirmed the defendant spoke with the motorist regarding the outstanding fines, and that the motorist gave him \$100 in cash.

GARCIA has been terminated by PayLock.

Booting is a parking enforcement tool, operated by PayLock in partnership with the City Sheriff, and means that a device is attached to a wheel of a vehicle to prevent a motorist from moving it. An individual can be booted for owing the City more than \$350 in parking, red light camera or bus lane violation tickets that are in judgment. PayLock, a privately held U.S. company, has contracted with the City Department of Finance (“DOF”) to operate the booting program in New York City, and patrols the streets with license plate recognition technology, matching plates with a database that tells it which vehicles are boot eligible. When the system finds a match, it alerts a City Deputy Sheriff, who determines if the vehicle can be booted. Payment to remove a boot is with a debit / credit card or electronic check. Cash, money orders, or cashier’s checks are only accepted at DOF Business Centers. PayLock field agents are not allowed to accept cash.

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Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, DOF Commissioner David M. Frankel, City Sheriff Edgar A. Domenech, and their staffs, and PayLock, for assistance and cooperation in the investigation of this case.

DOI's Squad of New York Police Department Detectives investigated the case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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