



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF FORMER BUILDINGS EMPLOYEE ON THEFT CHARGE

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the arrest today of the former Head Cashier in the Manhattan Borough Office of the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") on a charge of stealing approximately \$68,000 in City funds. DOI's investigation found that between January 2008 and July 2012, the defendant canceled payments to DOB from customers to clear hazardous violations, schedule elevator inspections, and obtain after-hours variances, among others, and kept those City funds. In fact, those payments should not have been canceled. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This City supervisor personally profited by taking advantage of the access and responsibility entrusted to her, according to the criminal complaint. This investigation exposed a number of vulnerabilities that DOI has worked with the Buildings Department to remedy."

CHARISE BRODY, 44, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

BRODY was employed at DOB from November 1992 until her resignation in September 2012, which occurred during the investigation. At the time of her resignation, she was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$51,482.

DOI's investigation audited cash cancellations authorized by Brody and determined that more than 100 of these cancellations, totaling approximately \$68,000, were fraudulent. Individuals whose payments were canceled never received any refunds from DOB and these funds were not in DOB's possession. As a result of this investigation, DOI recommended a number of changes to DOB, including implementing an online payment system, improving oversight of cash transactions, counting cash, and cancellations of transactions, which have been adopted.

Commissioner Peters thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., DOB Commissioner Rick D. Chandler, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

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The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOB, specifically Inspector General Gregory Cho and Assistant Inspector General Byron Biggerstaff, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Michael Carroll.

Assistant District Attorney Carey Ng from the office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case, with assistance from Paralegals Laura Gilson and Devon Rettew, and Forensic Accountant Mike Kelly, under the supervision of Chief of the Rackets Bureau Jodie Kane.

A criminal complaint is 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.

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