



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER INSPECTOR WITH CITY HOUSING PRESERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY ON CHARGES OF FRAUDULENTLY MAKING COPIES OF HIS CITY ID CARD AFTER RESIGNING FROM HIS JOB

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a former Housing Inspector with the City Department of Housing Preservation & Development ("HPD") on charges that more than two years after resigning from City employment he asked a card manufacturing company to make two copies of a City-issued identification card that had been altered. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Anyone who is not a City employee but passes himself off as one to obtain something he is not entitled to faces arrest and prosecution. The misuse of City credentials potentially jeopardizes public safety and security. I commend HPD for immediately notifying DOI so we could quickly put an end to this scheme."

JOHN MILO, 46, of Queens, was arrested Tuesday, July 21, 2009, and has been charged with two counts of Forgery in the Second Degree and one count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, class D felonies; Attempted Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class E felony; and Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

HPD's Housing Inspectors enforce City and State regulations related to maintenance conditions in tenant-occupied residences and are responsible for accessing these residences to conduct inspections on a variety of issues, including hot water, electricity and gas problems, water leaks and collapsed ceilings. HPD provides Housing Inspectors with a uniform, identification card and badge to make them easily identifiable and to facilitate access to tenant-occupied residences.

DOI began its investigation earlier this month after it was notified by HPD that MILO had contacted a card manufacturer requesting the company duplicate his City-issued identification card.

MILO worked for HPD as a Housing Inspector for six days in December 2006 and resigned that same month. At the time of his resignation, Milo was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$41,220.

According to the criminal complaint, MILO did not return his identification card at the end of his employment in December 2006 and no longer is an HPD employee. Between June 29 and July 21, 2009, an identification card manufacturer received a letter from MILO requesting the company make two copies of his HPD identification card. A passport photograph of MILO and an altered HPD identification card, in which the expiration date and identification number had been removed, were included in the letter. The copies were created and mailed to a delivery address provided by MILO.

The copies were intercepted and recovered by investigators.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HPD Commissioner Rafael Cestero, Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and the Inspector-in-Charge of the New York Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service Ronald J. Verrochio, and their staffs, for their assistance during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for HPD, including Chief Investigator Anthony DeLeo, under the supervision of Inspector General Peter Zanolin.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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