



DISTRICT ATTORNEY – NEW YORK COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2017

CONTACT: Caitlyn Fowles
fowlesc@dany.nyc.gov

THIRTY INDIVIDUALS INDICTED FOR USING FORGED PARKING PLACARDS TO PARK ILLEGALLY IN MANHATTAN

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Mark G. Peters today announced the indictment of 30 people for using forged parking placards to park illegally or to dispute previously issued parking tickets. The defendants are charged in New York State Supreme Court indictments with various charges including Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, and Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree.^[1]

“New York City is one of the most expensive and challenging places in the world to park a car,” said District Attorney Vance. “It came as no surprise to my Office and our law enforcement partners that alleged scammers have taken advantage of this industry in an effort to park for free and avoid paying tickets. I hope this indictment sends a clear message to anyone using a fake parking placard in Manhattan that this behavior is illegal and may result in a criminal prosecution. I thank our partners at DOI for their work on this investigation and the prosecutors in my Office’s Financial Frauds Bureau for ensuring this conduct was put to a stop.”

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, “Using a fraudulent placard to get around City parking regulations is no different than stealing any other City benefit or service. As our investigation shows, luxury vehicles with fake placards were restricting access to parking for the disabled, creating potentially dangerous situations and breaking the law. In fact, some of this abuse was observed right outside of DOI’s headquarters in Lower Manhattan. DOI has issued an [investigative summary](#) describing the investigation and will continue to work with its partners to ensure these fake permits are taken off the streets.”

New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg: “I applaud DOI for its investigation and the DA’s office for these indictments. NYC DOT is doing its share to address placard abuse by pursuing electronic real-time verification, training law enforcement on the designs of legal placards and by enhancing our holograms. We look forward to a continued crackdown on this activity.”

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

According to the indictment and statements made on the record in court, the defendants are charged with using forged parking placards to park illegally or dispute previously issued parking tickets, predominantly in Lower Manhattan, between March and September. Sixteen of the forged placards uncovered during this investigation were purportedly from the following New York City governmental agencies: the Administration for Child Services, the New York City Law Department, the New York City Department of Health, and the Fire Department of the City of New York. Fourteen placards were purportedly issued by non-municipal agencies: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross, and the New York Blood Center.

Three of the defendants filed forged parking placards with the New York City Department of Finance in an attempt to dispute parking tickets that were previously issued. Five of the defendants used forged handicap placards that included their vehicle's license plate number printed on the placard. Four of these defendants never applied for a legitimate handicap placard; one had previously possessed a legitimate placard, but had since reapplied and been rejected.

Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Gross is handling the prosecution of the case, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Gloria Garcia, Deputy Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau; Anne Ternes, Deputy Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau; Archana Rao, Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau; and Executive Assistant District Attorney Michael Sachs, Chief of the Investigation Division. Assistant District Attorney Katarina Braafladt and Paralegal Marissa Volpe also assisted with the investigation.

District Attorney Vance thanked the New York City Department of Investigation, specifically Special Investigators Dan Taylor and Christina Clyburn, Deputy Chief Investigator Robert Miller, Detective William Orange, the NYPD Squad assigned to DOI, Inspector General Jessica Heegan, and Chief Investigator James McElligott; the members of the NYPD's 20th Precinct, specifically Officer Zackary Bloomfield; the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Director of Security Operations for the NYC Department of Transportation Stefanie Panuccio; the American Red Cross, Office of Investigations, Compliance and Ethics; and the New York City Office of Payroll Administration.

Defendant Information:

RICHARD ABRAZI, D.O.B 1/9/1982
New York, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

BIBI ALLADIN, D.O.B. 5/23/1981
Queens, NY

Charged:

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

- Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, one count
- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

ROBERT BLESSINGTON, D.O.B. 12/13/1969
Wayne, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

ANDREJ BOGDANOVSKI, D.O.B. 3/8/1979
Tobyhanna, PA

Charged:

- Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, one count
- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

ROBERT BOJAJ, D.O.B. 9/26/1993
New York, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

JON CAMILLERI, D.O.B. 9/30/1980
Monroe, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

RICHIE CANIZARES, D.O.B. 7/6/1973
Queens, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

VINCENT CASSINO, D.O.B. 10/29/1948
Staten Island, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count

AMARILDO CIZMJA, D.O.B. 6/7/1983
Queens, NY

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

JANKU ERGYS, D.O.B. 10/3/1981

Queens, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

RALPH FACCILONGO, D.O.B. 2/14/1967

Bronx, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count

EDWARD FASANO, D.O.B. 12/20/1960

Syosset, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

ALBERT FELIZ, D.O.B. 1/30/1979

Mamaroneck, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

YULIYA FIRAYDONOVA, D.O.B. 12/27/1988

New York, NY

Charged:

- Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, one count
- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

MICHAEL GIACCONE, D.O.B. 12/1/1952

Queens, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, two counts

GIUSEPPE GIANNATTASIO, D.O.B. 4/2/1967

East Meadow, NY

Charged:

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

MOHAMED HASSAN, D.O.B. 11/6/1980
Brentwood, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count

STANLEY JACQUES, D.O.B. 1/21/1971
Uniondale, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

KIERAN KEAVENEY, D.O.B. 9/9/1971
Yonkers, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

RAMI MISBAH, D.O.B. 11/27/1976
Bronx, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

JOHN O'CONNELL, D.O.B. 6/4/1965
Brooklyn, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, two counts

CONSTANTINE PARDALIS, D.O.B. 4/23/1952
Queens, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

NAYEEM SIDDIQUE, D.O.B. 3/1/1978
Brooklyn, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

RICHARD TAYLOR, D.O.B. 3/25/1985

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

Brooklyn, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

ANTONIO VENDOME, D.O.B. 4/20/1952

New York, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

RAQUEL VENDOME, D.O.B. 4/23/1989

Oyster Bay, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

MICHAEL WILSON, D.O.B. 7/4/1987

Bronx, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count
- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

BORIS ZAGRINICHNY, D.O.B. 8/23/1982

Brooklyn, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, one count

LYUDMILA ZAVLYANOVA, D.O.B. 7/18/1971

Queens, NY

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count

MAREK ZIEBA, D.O.B. 2/20/1972

Mount Bethel, PA

Charged:

- Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

###

Additional news available at: www.manhattanda.com

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

New York County District Attorney | 212-335-9400

[1] The charges contained in the indictments are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.



New York City Department of Investigation

Summary of Investigation into Fraudulent Parking Placards

**MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER**

October 2017

I. DOI Investigation

In March 2017, the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), in partnership with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), began a proactive initiative to investigate the use of fraudulent parking placards by drivers in Manhattan. The investigation focused on:

1. The use of fraudulent placards to park illegally on Manhattan streets;¹
2. Vehicle owners submitting copies of fraudulent parking placards to the New York City Finance Department (DOF) in order to avoid paying parking tickets; and
3. The sale of fraudulent parking placards.

On October 3, 2017, this initiative resulted in arrests by DOI, the NYPD, and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office of 30 individuals relating to parking placard abuse, as well as an arrest on September 29, 2017, of a perpetrator who sold a single fraudulent parking placard for \$1200. These individuals were charged with misdemeanors and felonies, including Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, and Criminal Impersonation. They deliberately intended to defraud the City by filing copies of fake parking placards, deceiving traffic agents by displaying fake parking placards inside their vehicles, and/or pretending to be public servants by displaying fraudulent parking placards purportedly issued to employees of New York City and federal agencies.

II. DOI Findings

After DOI investigators began observing what appeared to be an increase in the use of fraudulent parking placards in and around lower Manhattan, DOI began a proactive initiative with the NYPD to uncover the extent fraudulent DOT placards² were being used to park illegally. Using DOI's expertise to identify fraudulent parking placards, combined with the regular sharing of intelligence between DOI and the NYPD, as well as referrals from DOT, investigators uncovered a pervasive problem of fraudulent parking placards being used by drivers in Manhattan, as well as the outer boroughs. These fraudulent placards impact the residents and businesses of New York City on a daily basis and have potential safety implications. Specifically, the rampant use of these fraudulent parking placards results in the following:

- Parking spaces reserved for handicapped individuals and ambulettes being illegally occupied, thus depriving individuals with medical disabilities the essential access to curbside pick-up and drop-off. For example, one fraudulent parking placard was seized from a Mercedes that was parked in a space reserved for ambulettes transporting passengers with disabilities;
- On numerous occasions DOI confiscated fraudulent placards from drivers parked in spaces reserved for commercial drivers. These spaces are intended for drivers supplying goods to local businesses. Not only are businesses negatively impacted

¹ This initiative remains ongoing to target the use of fake placards in Manhattan, as well as the outer boroughs.

² DOT issues parking placards to city agencies that are to be used by city employees while on official business.

by these fake placards, but there is a ripple effect when commercial drivers double park their vehicles, adding to congested streets; and

- The City is deprived of revenue obtained from the issuance of parking tickets. Specifically, this investigation uncovered individuals that submitted copies of fraudulent parking placards in order to avoid paying parking tickets. The dollar amount on these parking tickets ranged from \$60 to \$115.

This investigation uncovered that the selling of parking placards is a very profitable business with the price for the placards on the black market ranging from \$500 to \$2600. On September 29, 2017, Mahmoud Jaaidi was arrested after, as charged in a criminal complaint, selling a fraudulent New York City Law Department parking placard to an undercover investigator. The undercover investigator paid \$1200 to Jaaidi for the fake placard. Jaaidi was also arrested for possessing an additional fraudulent parking placard that he kept for his own personal use.

The fraudulent parking placards confiscated by DOI and the NYPD purported to be issued to City agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. For example, some of the seized placards had the following entities displayed on the placards:

- The New York City Law Department;
- The New York City Administration for Children's Services;
- New York City DOT Handicapped Parking;
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- The American Red Cross; and
- The New York Blood Center.

These fake parking placards were displayed in an array of vehicles that included a Rolls Royce, a Mercedes, BMWs, and Range Rovers.

III. Conclusion

This initiative has highlighted the widespread problem of fraudulent parking placard abuse in New York City and the negative consequences these crimes create. However, this investigation demonstrates the positive results that come from proactive initiatives and interagency coordination. Going forward, DOI, NYPD, and DOT will continue to educate workers on the ground so that fraudulent parking placards can be identified and confiscated. Additionally, these agencies will work on using technology so that license plates of vehicles can be quickly scanned to confirm if a valid parking placard was issued to the vehicle.