



The City of New York
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DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN WOMAN ON CHARGES OF POSSESSING AND CASHING FORGED CITY-ISSUED CHECKS AND STEALING MORE THAN \$2,400

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of YVETTE PATTERSON on charges of possessing and cashing three forged checks issued by the City University of New York ("CUNY"), the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"), and the City Department of Finance ("DOF") and stealing approximately \$2,453. DOI began its investigation after it was notified by NYCHA about alterations on one of its checks. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Anyone who wrongly thinks the City's checking accounts are easy targets for theft should heed today's arrest. DOI continually works with other City agencies to protect the taxpayers' funds, and fraudsters will be held to account."

PATTERSON, 43, of the Weeksville section of Brooklyn, was charged late Wednesday, December 9, 2009, with three counts each of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony; Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, class A misdemeanors, and with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, class E felonies. 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.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that in August 2009 at cash-checking establishments in Brooklyn, PATTERSON cashed three forged checks that had not been issued to PATTERSON, which she did not have permission to cash. On August 19, 2009, a CUNY-issued check was cashed for \$500; on August 23, 2009, a NYCHA-issued check was cashed for \$968; and on August 24, 2009, a DOF-issued check was cashed for \$985.

Each of these accounts had a security feature in place to identify and stop payment on forged checks, which ensured that the accounts did not suffer a loss due to the charged conduct. The check-cashing establishments in which PATTERSON withdrew money did suffer a loss.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, CUNY Assistant Director, Office of Internal Audit and Management, Cathy Rodriguez, DOF Commissioner David M. Frankel, and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, and their staffs, for their assistance on this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Acting Inspector General for NYCHA Kelvin Jeremiah, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Osaretin Omoigui.

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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