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**DOI ARRESTS CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED WITH
THEFT OF CITY-OWNED E-Z-PASS AND TOLL PAYMENTS EXCEEDING \$3,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a veteran Correction Officer with the City Department of Correction ("DOC") on charges of stealing and fraudulently using a City-owned E-Z Pass between January 2010 and April 2011, accruing more than \$3,000 in tolls paid by DOC for his personal use. DOI investigated the matter after a DOC audit found discrepancies in its E-Z pass inventory. The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This Correction Officer abused his position by stealing City property, according to the charges. Theft by a City employee is a quick route to arrest and prosecution and a sure way to derail a City career. This charged criminal conduct does not represent the many men and women who honorably protect the City's jails every day."

ROBERT HAMILTON, 43, of the Bronx, is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Defrauding the Government, class E felonies; and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property and Official Misconduct, 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.

HAMILTON has been employed by DOC since July 1990, was assigned to the Robert N Davoren Complex ("RNDC") at Riker's Island, receives an annual salary of approximately \$76,488, and was suspended today.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that between January 2010 and April 2011, the defendant used DOC's E-Z Pass, which was supposed to be in a DOC prisoner transportation vehicle, approximately 468 times at the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge; approximately 91 times at the Bronx Whitestone Bridge; approximately 104 times at the Throgs Neck Bridge, and approximately 27 times at the George Washington Bridge, incurring more than \$3,000 in tolls charged to and paid by DOC. Surveillance video from the toll plazas on several of those occasions show that on each occasion the DOC-owned E-Z Pass was activated by a vehicle registered to the defendant. A DOI investigator also observed the E-Z Pass in the defendant's vehicle, and DOC officials confirmed that the defendant had no permission or authority to possess or use DOC's E-Z Pass.

DOI recovered the DOC EZ-Pass today from the defendant's vehicle.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, DOC Commissioner Dora B. Schriro, and MTA Bridge and Tunnels Special Investigation Division Director Paul Murphy and Investigators Jose Vasquez and William D'Amora; and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOC.

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth A. Brandler of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office's Rackets Bureau is assigned to the prosecution of this case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.