



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #32-2012
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS TWO FORMER CHILD PROTECTIVE SPECIALISTS ON CHARGES
OF FALSIFYING CASE RECORD ENTRIES IN STATEWIDE INVESTIGATIVE DATABASE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrests of two former Child Protective Specialists with the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") on charges they submitted to ACS false information about contacts with individuals connected to child abuse and neglect investigations. According to the charges, the defendants entered the false information into CONNECTIONS, a computer database that tracks investigative steps in child abuse and neglect cases and is maintained by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. DOI initiated these separate investigations after ACS reported allegations involving the defendants entering false information into CONNECTIONS. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the cases.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These former City child case workers misrepresented important steps during child welfare investigations, undermining the official record. The City has no tolerance for City employees, especially child protective specialists, who disregard their duty and the truth."

LOLA WHIDBEE, 46, of Yonkers, N.Y., and ROSANA CACEDA, 42, of the Bronx, were arrested and charged Wednesday, December, 12, 2012.

WHIDBEE is charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, class E felonies, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors. Assistant District Attorney Barry Goldbrenner from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case. According to the criminal complaint, in October 2011 the defendant entered into CONNECTIONS that she spoke by phone to an individual regarding an ongoing ACS case; however, DOI's investigation found the individual did not receive any phone calls from the defendant and did not recognize the defendant's name.

WHIDBEE, who was assigned to ACS's office on Waters Place in the Bronx, began work at ACS in October 2008 and was receiving a salary of nearly \$50,000 when she was terminated in May 2012.

CACEDA is charged with two counts each of Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, Official Misconduct, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, and one count of Petit Larceny, class A misdemeanors. Assistant District Attorney Randy Sinkler from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case. According to the criminal complaint, the investigation found that in September 2008 the defendant entered into the CONNECTIONS database that she visited the home of a child and his mother and spoke with the mother. However, the investigation found the mother was actually incarcerated at the time the defendant indicated she visited with her. In addition, DOI found that between December 2008 and February 2009, an ACS supervisor observed the defendant's arrival times and created a log, which differed from the hours the defendant input into the City's computerized timekeeping system, and that the City overpaid the defendant by more than \$600 in funds she was not authorized to receive.

CACEDA, who was assigned to ACS's office on Morris Park Avenue in the Bronx, began work at ACS in September 1999 and was receiving a salary of nearly \$50,000 when she was terminated in March 2009.

more

Upon conviction, class E felonies are punishable by up to four years in prison, and class A misdemeanors are punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked ACS Commissioner Ronald E. Richter, Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and their staffs for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

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

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**