



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY PARKS ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
ON A CHARGE OF STEALING CASH DURING A DOI INTEGRITY TEST**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest today of a former City Parks Enforcement Patrol (“PEP”) Officer with the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) on a charge of stealing \$55 from a wallet that was turned in to the defendant as lost property during a DOI integrity test. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Lost property, particularly cash, should not become found money for a dishonest City employee, especially one with law enforcement responsibilities. DOI’s investigation led to a strengthening of the security of lost property within the City’s parks and exposed wrongdoing that was stopped.”

ERTHAL SCOTT, 32, of Manhattan, is charged with one count of Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI’s investigation, in June 2012, inside Battery Park, the defendant received a wallet from a DOI undercover investigator posing as a park visitor who was turning it in as found property. The wallet contained \$55 in cash and an identification card with contact information. DOI’s investigation found the defendant failed to secure the wallet and instead took and spent the money that was in it.

SCOTT began working with DPR as a seasonal employee in July 2004 and was terminated from his position in August 2012 as a result of DOI’s investigation.

As a result of DOI’s investigation, which included a review of the practices of PEP officers in City parks for the securing of lost property, DOI issued recommendations to strengthen the applicable procedures. DPR agreed to adopt DOI’s recommendations, including securing all lost property, training PEP officers on lost property procedures, disciplining employees for noncompliance, and publicly informing park patrons of the process for claiming lost property.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DPR Commissioner Veronica White, New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DPR.

Assistant District Attorney Laurie McGuire of the New York County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

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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