



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**FORMER CITY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS EMPLOYEE CHARGED
WITH DEFRAUDING TWO NEWSSTAND APPLICANTS OF AT LEAST \$6,900**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a former City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") employee on charges of defrauding two newsstand-license applicants of at least \$6,900 while he worked at DCA processing applications for newsstand licenses and submitting a falsified letter purportedly from the City indicating a newsstand application had been approved, when, in fact, it had not. DOI began its investigation after DCA reported its receipt of an allegation that one of the applicants had paid the defendant several thousand dollars in an unsuccessful effort to obtain a license. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "City employees who use their positions to bilk the public they serve face serious consequences, including arrest, prosecution, and possible jail time. I commend DCA for immediately reporting this allegation of criminal conduct to DOI."

ANTHONY HUNT, 22, who was a DCA Community Associate at the time of the charged crimes, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, all class E felonies; and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. 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, in June 2010, the defendant solicited two newsstand license applicants to make payments to him and a purported attorney he introduced to them, using the pseudonym "John Blink," supposedly to help them secure City approval of their newsstand license applications. The applicants subsequently made a series of payments totaling at least \$6,900 to the defendant and the purported attorney. One applicant paid at least \$4,400 and the second applicant paid at least \$2,500 to the defendant and the purported attorney. During that period the defendant provided one of the applicants with a fraudulent letter, purportedly from DCA, indicating, falsely, that the applicant's newsstand had been approved by the City's Department of Transportation ("DOT"), a necessary approval in the DCA licensing process for newsstands. In fact, DOT did not approve the newsstand and the defendant had no authority to issue the false letter.

HUNT began employment with the City on April 7, 2008 as a Community Associate. He was receiving an annual salary of \$31,534 when he resigned on July 1, 2010. His resignation came just several days after the dates of the charged crimes.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., DCA Commissioner Jonathan Mintz, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Amy Justiniano is prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Consumer Affairs.

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