



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release # 006-2002

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2002

BROOKLYN SCOFFLAW ARRESTED IN AUTO-RETRIEVAL SCAM

-- Submitted Phony PVO Tow Release Form To City Marshal; Owed \$9,800 In Parking Summonses --

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ERIC GREENBERG, a Brooklyn resident, for forging and submitting a fraudulent vehicle release notice, purportedly issued by Parking Violations Operations (PVO), to a New York City Marshal to retrieve his vehicle - which had been towed and impounded because GREENBERG owed the City more than \$9,800 on 7 years of unpaid parking fines.

Commissioner Kuriansky said that DOI began an investigation upon learning from PVO that GREENBERG may have faxed a fraudulent PVO notice to Marshal Jeffrey Rose, purporting to authorize the release of GREENBERG's impounded vehicle without having to satisfy the outstanding judgment for unpaid summonses.

The investigation disclosed that, on May 3, 1999, Marshal Rose towed GREENBERG's vehicle, a 1997 Honda Accord, from East 14th Street in Brooklyn, for failure to pay PVO judgments totaling \$9,853 on 82 summonses. The tickets had been issued for various violations -- including illegally parking in a fire hydrant zone, overtime meter parking, and double parking -- between May 1991 and November 1998.

The investigation further revealed that, on May 5, 1999, GREENBERG faxed a vehicle release notice, purportedly issued by PVO, to Marshal Rose at his office located at 1503 Gravesend Neck Road in Brooklyn. Upon receiving the notice, Marshal Rose authorized the release of GREENBERG's vehicle without payment. GREENBERG then took the authorization to WABC Towing, a Brooklyn towing facility then employed by Marshal Rose to impound vehicles on his behalf, and retrieved his Honda.

DOI's investigation determined that GREENBERG allegedly obtained an earlier vehicle release form, forged the signature of a former PVO employee, and faxed the altered form to Marshal Rose, authorizing him to release GREENBERG's vehicle without payment.

Commissioner Kuriansky explained that PVO release notices can be issued and faxed to a City Marshal by the PVO Tow Redemption Unit, but they may never be sent directly by a debtor, as GREENBERG did. Moreover, authentic PVO notices contain both a unique serial number and handwritten comments explaining the basis for the vehicle's release, neither of which were contained in the notice faxed by GREENBERG to Marshal Rose.

GREENBERG, 44, of 1900 Quentin Road in Brooklyn, New York, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D felony; and, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both Class E felonies. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to the City Department of Finance for its assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and PVO Inspector General Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Alberta E. Ancrum, Special Investigator Joseph Medina, and Confidential Investigators Dalila Cummings, Roxanne Harmon, and Michael Granatstein.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.