



Department of Investigation *Press Releases*

Bronx Woman Arrested In \$7,200 Counterfeit City Check Scam

Release #016-2000

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of TABATHA F. FLOWERS (a.k.a. TABATHIA FLOWERS) for scheming to defraud the City's Department of Finance (DOF) out of more than \$7,200 by attempting to negotiate a counterfeit City check.

Commissioner Kuriansky said that DOI commenced an investigation last month when the owner of a Bronx check-cashing establishment reported that FLOWERS had attempted to cash a counterfeit City check in the amount of \$7,251.52. The investigation disclosed that on February 14, FLOWERS, or someone acting on her behalf, had deposited a fraudulent City of New York check into FLOWERS' account at The Chase Manhattan Bank ("Chase"). Chase subsequently returned the check to FLOWERS, unpaid and clearly stamped "Do not redeposit" and "counterfeit." FLOWERS then allegedly took this same check and attempted to cash it at the Bronx check-cashing firm. The check, along with FLOWERS' New York State non-driver identification card and Social Security card, which she had presented as identification, were confiscated by the check-cashier.

FLOWERS, 19, of 576 St. Mary's Street, in the Bronx, was charged with Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his appreciation to DOF Commissioner Andrew S. Eristoff and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation, which is continuing, was conducted by Vincent E. Green, DOI Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for DOF, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Maureen A. Thomas, and Assistant Inspectors General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo and Joseph Medina.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Patrick Breen is handling the matter.

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