



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS EMPLOYEE FROM BROOKLYN D.A.'s OFFICE FOR DOUBLE DIPPING**

Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of Gary Merola, a grand jury reporter for the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, for theft because he freelanced for three court reporting agencies while he was on the City's clock.

Merola, 50, of Brooklyn, earns \$56,597 annually and has worked at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office as an Associate Reporter since 1973. He has been charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison. Upon his arrest, Merola was suspended.

Investigators determined that from January 1999 until September 2002, Merola freelanced for three court reporting services -- AK-RET Reporting Services, Jaguar Reporting Inc. and Jay Deitz & Associates Court Reporting Services -- during the same hours he was scheduled to work at the District Attorney's Office, said Commissioner Gill Hearn. Merola's time card indicated he was working for the DA's Office but, in fact, in some instances he had been freelancing.

"Gary Merola took wages he didn't earn or deserve and stole from the City," said Commissioner Gill Hearn. "His actions tarnish the otherwise hardworking, honest employees in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office for its assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Julia Davis, DOI's Inspector General for Executive Offices and Non-Mayoral Agencies, and members of her staff, including Examining Attorney Julio Rodriguez.

The Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard Brown is handling the case as Special Prosecutor. Assistant District Attorney Yvonne Francis will prosecute under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James Liander.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To make complaints about someone ripping off the city, call DOI at 212-825-5959.***