



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CITY MARSHAL'S CLERK IN THEFT OF TOW FUNDS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of PATRICIA WILLIAMS, a former clerk for a City marshal in Brooklyn, on charges of stealing \$9,889 that she had collected from six individuals whose cars had been towed for overdue parking fines. WILLIAMS is also charged with falsifying the marshal's records to conceal the embezzlement, which was carried out between September 2007 and July 2008. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Embezzlement in a public office and the associated cover-up in its records are crimes and an abuse of trust. Anyone tempted to skim City funds on the job should stop and consider the consequences, which include loss of employment, arrest, and a possible prison sentence."

WILLIAMS, 44, of Brooklyn, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and multiple counts of Forgery in the Second Degree, and Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, class D felonies, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, class E felonies, and several other crimes. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

WILLIAMS was employed by City Marshal Jeffrey Rose for 11 years, most recently at his office on Avenue N in the Flatlands section of Brooklyn, until July 2008. At that time she was receiving an annual salary of \$41,600.

WILLIAMS'S duties included collecting payments from the owners of towed cars, updating the marshal's computerized towing and payment records, and forwarding the payments for deposit in the marshal's official account. The marshal is responsible for remitting the car owners' ticket payments to the City's Department of Finance ("DOF").

DOI began investigating when the owner of a car towed last July by another City marshal called DOF and reported that he should not have been towed because he had already paid his tickets and towing charges three months earlier, in April 2008, in Marshal Rose's office. DOF immediately alerted DOI. According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation revealed that WILLIAMS had collected that payment of approximately \$1,400 in April, recorded it in the computer, and authorized the release of the car, but had not forwarded the money for deposit, instead keeping it and falsely reversing the payment-entry in the computer. The investigation revealed five additional similar instances where WILLIAMS kept car owners'

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payments, totaling approximately \$8,500, and falsely reversed the payment entries, according to the complaint. The marshal has replaced those stolen funds, and DOF has applied the car owners' payments to their tickets.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, in particular, Chief Auditor Floralba Paulino and Confidential Investigator Iuliana Celik, with assistance from DOI's Investigative Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Cone of the Kings County District Attorney's Office's Rackets Bureau is prosecuting the case.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked District Attorney Hynes and DOF Commissioner Martha E. Stark and their staffs for their assistance.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are 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.

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**