



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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FIVE ARRESTED IN THEFT OF \$250,000 FROM PARKING METERS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and ELIOT SPITZER, New York State Attorney General, today announced the indictment and arrest of five individuals charged with conspiracy and the theft of tens of thousands of dollars from New York City parking meters. Commissioner Gill Hearn and Attorney General Spitzer said that today's arrests had resulted from their offices' continuing investigation, which on November 29, 2001, had led to the arrest of five other people on felony theft charges. The investigation has revealed that the participants in the scheme stole more than \$250,000 from the City, according to Commissioner Gill Hearn and Attorney General Spitzer.

Arrested today were five defendants: MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY, IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV, IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, and SABINA SAPOZHNIKOVA. A sixth defendant, OLEG MANZHELEY, arrested last November, was to be arraigned today on the indictment. All six defendants have been charged with Conspiracy in the fourth degree, Grand Larceny in the second degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the fifth degree, and Possession of Burglar's Tools.

The indictment, handed up this week by a grand jury in Manhattan and unsealed today, charges that for more than two years, from at least January 1999 through late February 2001, the defendants participated in a scheme through which they and others systematically broke into parking meters in various locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn. According to the indictment, MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY, IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV, and OLEG MANZHELEY were among those who went out at night in groups of two or more and, using keys that they had unlawfully manufactured, broke into the meters, and removed the quarters, which they rolled and exchanged for bills at pizza shops and other establishments. The indictment charges that ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY and SABINA SAPOZHNIKOVA functioned as organizers of the conspiracy, coordinating transportation and other details, including the timing of the break-ins, and monitoring them by telephone to check on the amounts being taken, the distribution of the stolen money, and whether the police were watching. According to the indictment, the defendants frequently discussed their criminal activities, in cryptic terms, in telephone calls, and at one point, in January last year, several of the defendants expressed concerns that MANZHELEY may have stolen some of the illegal keys that the group used to break into the meters.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Any thieves who would 'shortchange' the City's taxpayers and motorists under the cover of darkness should take note of today's arrests and think twice. Here, a concerned citizen saw

something amiss and tipped off DOI, resulting in a vigorous investigation and the arrest and prosecution of ten defendants. In this time of scarce resources, all New Yorkers and their public servants in law enforcement will be particularly alert to those who would steal from the public till."

Attorney General Spitzer said, "We hope these arrests send a strong message to anyone attempting to steal from hard-working, taxpaying New Yorkers that they will be prosecuted. We are pleased to have worked with Commissioner Gill Hearn in this matter."

The defendants, each of whom faces 15 years in prison, are:

MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY age 46, his wife, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, age 52, and their son IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, age 20, all residing at 3010 Brighton 12th Street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV, age 45 and his wife, SABINA SAPOZHNIKOVA, age 42, residing at 75 Bay 28th Street, Brooklyn, NY.

In addition, OLEG MANZHELEY, age 40, of 1354 West 6th Street, Brooklyn, NY, who had been previously arrested, was indicted.

Commissioner Gill Hearn and Attorney General Spitzer thanked New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for the commitment of substantial NYPD resources, which contributed to today's arrests.

The investigation has been conducted by the NYPD Detective Squad assigned to DOI, under the leadership of Deputy Inspector Robert Kelly, the office of Ron Calvosa, DOI's Inspector General for the New York City Department of Transportation, and the Attorney General's Statewide Organized Crime Task Force ("OCTF"), under the supervision of OCTF's Chief Investigator, Mitch Lampert and William Casey, Chief Investigator for the Attorney General's Office. It included DOI's Investigative Auditors Helen Gromadsky and Olga Sunitsky, NYPD Detective Ann Marie Kelly, of DOI's Detective Squad, and OCTF Supervising Investigator Diego Cruz. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Amy Cohn, of OCTF, and Special Assistant Deputy Attorney General Victoria Curran, of DOI, under the supervision of Deputy Attorney General George Quinlan and Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Division Chris Prather.

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations; they are presumed innocent unless found guilty in a court of law.

CONTACT:

JUANITA SCARLETT (NYS AG)

(212) 416-8060

KEITH SCHWAM (DOI)

(212) 825-5958