



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS CLERK WHO TOOK CASH PAYOFFS TO DISMISS  
HUNDREDS OF PARKING TICKETS WORTH MORE THAN \$200,000**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of GARY SUMMERS, a former temporary contract employee assigned to the City Department of Finance's (DOF) Customer Assistance unit (CA), for conspiring to unlawfully dismiss thousands of parking summonses worth nearly \$210,000. After deleting the tickets from CA's computerized records, Summers received several thousands of dollars in cash bribes from a co-conspirator.

Summers, 26, of Brooklyn, was arrested this morning in Manhattan. He has been charged with criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree. If convicted, he face up to 11 years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Summers apparently thought his insider access gave him a license to steal from the City, but could not have been more mistaken. My office will vigorously pursue those who cheat the City out of scarce resources."

DOF Commissioner Martha E. Stark added, "I am disappointed, saddened and outraged by Mr. Summers alleged illegal actions. No person entrusted with collecting revenue on behalf of NYC should abuse that trust. I thank Commissioner Hearn and the DOI staff for their work on this case. This kind of enforcement action both deters future abuse and safeguards the integrity of the more than 2,000 Finance employees and contract workers who carry out their duties responsibly and honestly."

Summers worked at the Headway a/k/a Irene Cohen employment agency, a vendor under contract with the City to provide temporary employees to DOF, said Gill Hearn. From July 1, 1997 until October 12, 1999, Summers worked at the Parking Violation's Help Line and Refunds Unit (now called the Customer Assistance unit), where he answered questions from the general public and helped process refunds.

DOI began its investigation in December 1998 after a member of the public said several CA employees might be involved in a scheme to dismiss various summonses by illegally altering the CA computer records, said Gill Hearn. An informant said he was approached by two CA Brooklyn Business Center employees, who solicited a \$1,700 bribe in exchange for deleting nearly \$2,500 in outstanding parking violations judgments from the computer.

Working with DOI, the informant wore a concealed recording device when he went to pay one of the employees \$1,700 to delete his summonses. The CA employee was arrested January 2002, and the investigation continued.

Investigators determined that Summers's user identification code had been used to access the CA computer in order to delete motorists' outstanding fines, said Gill Hearn. Further review of documents Summers processed indicated that between October 1997 to October 1999, Summers used his employee computer code to access the CAU computer, delete electronic data in files, and improperly dismiss summonses. From June 9, 1998 until October 29, 1999, Summers dismissed 1,069 of these summonses which were worth \$123,443.06. In total, Summers 2, 259 summonses.

Summers told DOI investigators he had split the cash fees with another former temporary employee assigned to CA, who allegedly was murdered in an unrelated matter. That employee allegedly provided Summers with the license plate numbers of all of the motorists from whom bribes were solicited so that Summers could delete their outstanding parking tickets from the computer.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that the dismissed parking tickets have been reinstated and that all 261 violators will be required to make full payment, including penalties and interest.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF Commissioner Stark, and members of her staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and CA Inspector General Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Acting Deputy Inspector General Alberta E. Ancrum, Special Investigator Belarminia Ortiz, Deputy Audit Director Joan Russell-Benjamin, Auditor Hermeet Kaur, Auditor Floralba Paulino, and former DOI employee Jain Yang,

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Ferguson is handling the matter.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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