



Department of Investigation

Press Releases

Civic Center Parking Garage Manager Charged With \$110,000 Theft

Release #027-2000

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of TESSA DACOSTA, a former manager at the City Department of Transportation (DOT) Civic Center parking garage in lower Manhattan, for stealing more than \$110,000 in customer receipts during the past eighteen months.

DACOSTA worked for Roosevelt Parking and Maintenance Corp. of Woodside, Queens, a contractor hired by DOT to operate the 400-space parking facility at 109-130 Park Row for a monthly fee.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation last month after a DOT audit of daily cash reports at the garage uncovered a cash shortage in DACOSTA's accounts. DOI thereafter audited the entire 21-month-period in which DACOSTA served as a shift manager and determined that a total of at least \$110,000 was missing.

As shift manager, DACOSTA was responsible for depositing the parking garage's daily revenues into a DOT bank account. However, the DOI audit disclosed that on most of the days when DACOSTA prepared the daily manager's report -- which summarized the day's parking activity and recorded the total cash receipts -- the backup cash register tapes and computer printouts were usually missing, and the cashiers' daily handwritten reports had been forged or altered to list lower cash amounts than were actually collected. The DOI audit found that the missing cash amounts ranged from a monthly low of \$80 in September 1998 to a high of \$12,900 in July 1999.

DACOSTA, 25, of 1325 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony, Forgery in the Second Degree, a Class D felony, and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to 15 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DOT Commissioner Wilbur L. Chapman and members of his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation, which is continuing, is being conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOT, Ronald P. Calvosa, and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Mary T. Piechocki, Assistant Inspector General Renard McDowell, and Confidential Investigator Omar Sarach.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Lee Llambelis is handling the matter.

