



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Releases*

### *Graphic Designer Charged With Forging \$1,000 Parking Receipt*

#### **Release #028-2000**

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of BIAGIO BELMONTE, a Brooklyn graphic designer, for creating a forged Parking Violations Operations (PVO) cash register receipt and fraudulently seeking to cancel over \$1,000 in fines and penalties on 10 parking tickets he had received.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation in November after a PVO Brooklyn Help Center supervisor became suspicious of the cash register receipt BELMONTE had submitted in an effort to clear outstanding summonses from his record. The purported receipt indicated that a \$1,055.88 payment had been made to PVO and that all 10 pending summonses, which had been issued to BELMONTE'S car over a 12-month period, had been satisfied.

The DOI investigation confirmed that BELMONTE had received 10 tickets: 5 for an expired parking meter; 3 for a missing or expired inspection sticker; 1 for parking at a fire hydrant; and, 1 for parking in a crosswalk. The violations allegedly occurred between February 19, 1998, and February 15, 1999, at various locations in Brooklyn and Manhattan. The cash register receipt was submitted on November 9, 1999, along with BELMONTE's request for a judgment of satisfaction.

Commissioner Kuriansky explained that PVO issues judgments of satisfaction to drivers who have paid all fines and penalties on outstanding summonses. However, PVO, before issuing such a judgment, conducts a thorough records review to ensure that all tickets issued to a driver have actually been paid. The review of BELMONTE's PVO file disclosed that the 10 summonses on his car had not, in fact, been satisfied, and that the information on the cash register receipt he submitted was false.

BELMONTE, 30, of 2134 68<sup>th</sup> Street in Brooklyn, who works as a self-employed graphic designer, was charged with Forgery in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 1 year in jail.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Department of Finance Commissioner Andrew E. Eristoff, Assistant Commissioner Michael Phillips of Parking Violations Operations, and the members of the staff of the PVO Brooklyn Help Center, for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by PVO Supervising Inspector General Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Confidential Investigator Roxanne Harmon.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.