



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN GRAND JURY CLERK IN \$700 INTERNET THEFT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2000-- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of RICARDO FIGUEROA, a grand jury clerk in the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, for stealing a robbery victim's credit card numbers from an office file and then making unauthorized purchases over the internet of books, computer equipment, diet materials, and adult on-line services, totaling \$730.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation in October after the robbery victim complained of several improper charges on two of her credit card statements. The investigation disclosed that FIGUEROA had created an e-mail address through which, via his home computer, he made internet purchases on at least 8 occasions between June 23 and September 18, 1999, using the robbery victim's name and credit card numbers. Vendors thereafter mailed or shipped the merchandise to FIGUEROA'S workplace address at 360 Adams Street in Brooklyn.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to the Kings County District Attorney's Office for its assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

FIGUEROA, 42, of 885 East 56th Street, Brooklyn, has been employed by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office as a community service aide assigned to the grand jury since 1989, and was paid a salary of \$27,600 a year. He was immediately suspended without pay and has since resigned. He was charged with 2 counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E felony; 8 counts of Petit Larceny, a Class A misdemeanor; and 1 count of Official Misconduct, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to 4 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Julia Davis, DOI's Inspector General for Executive Offices & Non-Mayoral Agencies, and members of her staff, including Confidential Investigator Alicia George, Examining Attorney Monique Vinet Imbert, and Special Investigators Robert Medaglia and Michael Corrigan. The Office of Richmond County District Attorney William L. Murphy is prosecuting the case as a Special Prosecutor. Assistant District Attorney Jillian B.S. Harrington is assigned to handle the matter.