



## Department of Investigation *Press Release*

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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2002

### **EMS TECHNICIAN ARRESTED IN \$8,000 TIME CHEAT SCAM** *-- Falsely Claimed 297 Hours Of "Phantom" Overtime --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of CINDY B. EARLEY, a New York City Fire Department (FDNY) Emergency Medical Service (EMS) technician, assigned to Division 1, located at Pier 36 in lower Manhattan, for stealing approximately \$8,057 in City salary by altering her time sheets and fraudulently claiming more than 297 hours of overtime -- the equivalent of nearly 8 weeks' work.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "City employees should be paid only for hours actually worked. For this EMS technician to fraudulently pad her timesheets, especially during these tough fiscal times, is particularly inexcusable."

DOI began an investigation in December 2000, after being notified by the Fire Department that a discrepancy had been found between overtime reports maintained at FDNY headquarters and the Division 1 overtime records. The investigation revealed that, between February 21 and November 26, 2000, EARLEY was paid \$8,057 for 297 hours of overtime that she falsely claimed to have worked.

The investigation further disclosed that EARLEY, in preparing and signing her own timesheets, added overtime hours using a time keeping code designated for late ambulance runs. EARLEY, who worked as an aide to the EMS Division 1 Chief, was not even assigned to ambulance duty. EARLEY, it is charged, fraudulently added a total of 297 overtime hours, in bi-weekly entries ranging from 7 hours to 37 hours, to 24 of her time sheets in the 9 months between February and November 2000.

EARLEY, 32, of 194 Covert Avenue in Floral Park, Long Island, currently on family medical leave, has been employed by EMS since April 1991, earning an annual salary of \$35,168. She was immediately suspended without pay. EARLEY was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, both Class D felonies; and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and members of his executive EMS staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by John McMahon, DOI's Inspector General for the Fire Department, and

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members of his staff, including Confidential Investigator Jayme Naberezny and Senior Investigative Attorney Robert Eisman.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Berger is handling the matter, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Leroy Frazer, Chief of the DA's Special Prosecutions Bureau.