



Department of Investigation *Press Release*

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DOI Arrests 2 ACS Clerks In \$16,000 "Paper Chase" Scam *– Stole 1,000 Boxes Of Paper From Agency's Downtown Offices*

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of TIMOTHY BARNES and RAFAEL CRUZ, clerical employees at the City Administration for Children's Services (ACS), for stealing over 1,000 boxes of paper, valued at more than \$16,000, from the agency's downtown Manhattan offices, and selling them at a discount to nearby retail stores.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI initiated an investigation after an ACS employee reported that BARNES, after regular working hours, had taken paper and other stationery items from the agency's 66 Leonard Street office and brought them to an office-supply store about 2 blocks away.

Thereafter, DOI investigators surveilled BARNES over a 2-month span, and observed him take numerous boxes, each weighing about 25 pounds and containing a dozen, 500-sheet reams of white letter-size or legal-size paper, from ACS offices at 220 Church Street and 80 Lafayette Street, bring them, using a wheeled metal-frame office cart, to an office-supply store, and sell them for about \$10 each. Each box was valued at about \$16.

The investigators also saw CRUZ take various boxes of paper from the ACS Church Street office, bring them to 2 nearby stores, one of which had also purchased paper from BARNES, and sell them for about \$10 each.

The investigation disclosed that BARNES and CRUZ stole the boxes of paper over a 30-month period from August 1996 to February 1999.

BARNES, 41, of 275 Blake Avenue, Brooklyn, and CRUZ, 38, of 45 Cleveland Street, Staten Island, were each charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, Class D felonies. If convicted, each defendant faces up to 7 years in prison.

Both BARNES, a messenger, who was hired by ACS on August 27, 1990, and earns \$20,095 a year, and CRUZ, a supply room clerk, who was hired on November 21, 1988, and also earns \$20,095 a year, have been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to ACS Commissioner Nicholas Scopetta and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Gerard Hoey, DOI's Inspector General for ACS, and members of his staff,

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including Assistant Inspector General Marion Hamilton, and Confidential Investigators Walter Hartman, Flora Newsome, and Angie Wells.

The Office of the New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Brenda Fischer of the Special Prosecutions Bureau is handling the matter.