



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release # 05-2006
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2006

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY EMPLOYEE FOR STEALING TIME

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of AARON LEVINE, a former Criminalist in the New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), for allegedly stealing approximately \$16,000 in overtime pay for work he did not perform.

LEVINE, 40, of Salt Lake City, Utah, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, five counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, and five counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison for the top charge. LEVINE worked for OCME from October 1988 until January 2005.

DOI's investigation began after OCME officials reported that they believed that LEVINE had submitted falsified timecards claiming to have worked overtime. Levine's fraud was uncovered after OCME began a time and leave audit of his excessive absences. The felony complaint charges that from January 2004 to December 2004, LEVINE submitted 25 falsified timecards that included a supervisor's forged signature. OCME paid LEVINE \$16,000 for these hours. In January 2005, after giving a statement to DOI, LEVINE submitted his resignation.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant should have known that the City will not be duped into paying for services work that has not been performed. The conduct with which this defendant has been charged is toxic to the other hard-working, honest employees at the Medical Examiner's office."

DOI's investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for OCME Sam Amorese, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander and Special Investigator John Eleftheriades.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Melissa Marrus of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Leroy Frazer and Tom Wornom.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Charles S. Hirsch and his staff for their assistance in this case.

Criminal charges are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.