



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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FIVE PLEAD GUILTY TO STEALING THOUSANDS FROM PARKING METERS FOR -- City To Recover \$225,000 And An SUV From Defendants --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and ELIOT SPITZER, New York State Attorney General ("AG"), today announced that five people who were indicted in April 2002 for a scheme to steal hundreds of thousands of dollars in quarters from New York City parking meters have pled guilty to grand larceny charges. All five defendants entered guilty pleas yesterday in the State Supreme Court in Manhattan, before the Honorable Daniel FitzGerald, and will be sentenced to prison terms in August. Five other defendants previously pled guilty to felonies, bringing the total number of convictions arising out of the joint DOI-AG investigation to ten. The City of New York will recover approximately \$225,000 in cash and a vehicle through plea agreements with five of the defendants.

The five defendants who entered guilty pleas yesterday are: MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY, IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV, IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, and OLEG MANZHELEY. Each defendant pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony that applies to thefts of between \$50,000 and \$1 million. Pursuant to plea agreements, MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY and IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV will receive prison sentences of one and one-half to four and one-half years, and IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, and OLEG MANZHELEY will be sentenced to prison terms of one to three years. All five have been incarcerated since their arrests in April. A sixth defendant who was indicted and arrested in April, SABINA SAPOZHNIKOVA, pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree in May and was sentenced to five years' probation and 1000 hours of community service.

The April indictment charged that for more than two years the six above-named defendants systematically broke into parking meters at night in various locations in Manhattan and Brooklyn and removed the quarters, which they exchanged for bills at pizza shops and other establishments. The DOI-AG investigation, which was triggered by a tip from a concerned citizen, included extensive surveillance of the defendants' thefts, court-ordered wiretaps of telephones that the defendants used in planning and discussing their scheme, and the execution of search warrants at their homes and other locations.

Commissioner Gill Hearn and Attorney General Spitzer said that their joint investigation had revealed that, in addition to stealing money from City parking meters, one defendant, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, stole several thousand dollars from a Medicaid-supported home-attendant agency where she was employed by submitting false time sheets. For the latter theft, the AG's Medicaid Fraud Unit has charged ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. According to the AG's felony complaint filed in the Brooklyn Criminal Court, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY submitted time sheets in which she claimed to be working at a patient's home at times when the DOI-AG wiretap revealed that she was in her own home.

Pursuant to plea agreements, ELLA and MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY will forfeit \$116,000 that DOI and AG investigators previously seized from their safe deposit box. IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, their son, will pay the City \$10,500 to match the amount of money he had received in state and federal grants to pursue college

studies in criminal justice - while he was stealing money from City parking meters. IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV will forfeit approximately \$12,000 that investigators recovered from his home while executing a search warrant; and OLEG MANZHELEY will forfeit approximately \$3,000 recovered from his home and his 1997 Mitsubishi Montero Sport, which investigators seized as evidence. In addition, ROMAN PLISAK, who was arrested in November 2001, has agreed to forfeit approximately \$83,000 that was seized from his bank account.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "These convictions, prison sentences, and asset forfeitures send a strong message that stealing from the City's taxpayers is a losing proposition. I thank and commend Attorney General Spitzer and his staff for their excellent work in pursuing these prosecutions to a successful conclusion and in helping DOI recover money that the defendants stole from the City."

Attorney General Spitzer said, "We are committed to pursuing every avenue to prosecute those who attempt to rob taxpayers and circumvent the system. I am pleased to have worked with Commissioner Gill Hearn and her staff, and I commend the work of our Organized Crime Task Force."

MIKHAIL BOGUSLAVSKY age 46, his wife, ELLA BOGUSLAVSKY, age 52, and their son IGOR BOGUSLAVSKY, age 20, were residents of 3010 Brighton 12th Street, Brooklyn.

IGOR SAPOZHNIKOV, age 45, and his wife, SABINA SAPOZHNIKOVA, age 42, were residents of 75 Bay 28th Street, in Brooklyn.

OLEG MANZHELEY, age 40, resided at 1354 West 6th Street, Brooklyn.

ROMAN PLISAK, age 36, was a resident of 50 Shore Road, Brooklyn.

Commissioner Gill Hearn and Attorney General Spitzer thanked New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly for the commitment of substantial NYPD resources to the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by the NYPD Detective Squad assigned to DOI, under the leadership of Deputy Inspector Robert Kelly, the office of Ron Calvosa, DOI's Inspector General for the New York City Department of Transportation, the Attorney General's Statewide Organized Crime Task Force ("OCTF"), under the supervision of OCTF's Chief Investigator, Mitch Lampert and William Casey, Chief Investigator for the Attorney General's Office. It included DOI's Investigative Auditors Helen Gromadsky and Olga Sunitsky, NYPD Detective Ann Marie Kelly, of DOI's Detective Squad, and OCTF Supervising Investigator Diego Cruz. The case has been prosecuted by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Amy Cohn, of OCTF, and Special Assistant Deputy Attorney General Victoria Curran, of DOI, under the supervision of Deputy Attorney General George Quinlan and Assistant Deputy Attorney General for the Criminal Division Chris Prather.

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