



## Department of Investigation

### *Press Release*

#### **DOI ARRESTS "FUGITIVE" HEALTH DEPARTMENT TEMP WORKER FOR FORGING CHECKS & STEALING \$3,200** *Defendant Apprehended In Georgia*

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1999 - EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of CHARLES BARKSDALE, a temporary clerical employee assigned to the Internal Accounting Unit (IAU) of the New York City Department of Health (DOH), for stealing nearly \$3,200 from DOH by negotiating stolen IAU checks and keeping the proceeds. BARKSDALE, who fled New York approximately a year ago after learning he was under investigation, was arrested last week in Atlanta, Georgia.

In November 1995, DOH found that 30 blank checks were missing from its Internal Accounting Unit in Manhattan. A stop was immediately placed on the checks, but not before thirteen (13) of the checks had been negotiated for a total of \$3,186. IAU then notified DOI, which initiated an investigation.

DOI found that the 13 checks had been made payable to a "Kevin Scott" and cashed at a Queens bank in an account under the same name. Handwriting analysis revealed that the holder of the account was the person who had completed the checks by forging the names of two DOH officials who were authorized signatories on the IAU account. Investigators found that "Scott" had provided the bank with a real address, but had since moved to another apartment. Armed with a photograph of "Kevin Scott," DOI investigators went to the new apartment, where the building's management company identified "Scott" as BARKSDALE.

After learning of DOI's investigation, BARKSDALE fled to a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia. Investigators from DOI, working with the Dekalb County Sheriff's Office, were able to determine BARKSDALE's whereabouts. DOI obtained an arrest warrant for BARKSDALE and arranged for him to be taken into custody by investigators of the Sheriff's Office. In Georgia, BARKSDALE was found to have assumed a number of fake identities.

BARKSDALE, 32, of Queens, New York, was employed at the Department of Health from July 31 to October 25, 1995.

BARKSDALE was charged with the felony crimes of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, and Forgery in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Kyle Sturcken, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Health, Assistant Inspector General Bradley Howard, and former Special Investigator Thomas Aristy. BARKSDALE waived extradition, was returned to New York, and arraigned on Friday, July 23, 1999, before Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Suzanne Mondo, who set bail at \$3,000. BARKSDALE's next court appearance is

scheduled for August 9, 1999.

Commissioner Kuriansky thanked the Dekalb County Sheriff's Office and particularly, Investigators Steven Schaffer and Richard Berkowitz, for their cooperation in apprehending BARKSDALE.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Marianne Paoli is handling the matter.