



The City of New York
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DOI AND NYPD ARREST TRANSIT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEE FOR ATTEMPTED MEDICAID FRAUD
-Staten Island man allegedly tried to steal over \$38,000 in Medicaid funds-

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and RAYMOND W. KELLY, Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, announced the arrest of VLADIMIR PROKOPCHUK, a current employee with the New York City Transit Authority, for trying to steal more than \$38,000 in Medicaid funds from the City-funded Bronx Jewish Community Council (BJCC).

The BJCC, located at 2930 Wallace Avenue in the Bronx, has a \$2.3 million-a-year contract with the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) to provide home attendant services to Medicaid-eligible individuals in the Bronx. As the Inspector General for HRA, which administers the Medicaid program for the City, DOI investigates allegations of Medicaid fraud.

VLADIMIR PROKOPCHUK, 40, of Mapleton Avenue in Staten Island, was arrested Wednesday and has been charged with four counts of Grand Larceny in the third degree and four counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the third degree, which are each class D felonies. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This individual thought he had engineered a clever scheme toward debt-free living. Instead, as these charges indicate, he may be in the process of earning a criminal record."

The investigation began when the director of the BJCC reported to both DOI and the NYPD that four unauthorized withdrawals, totaling \$38,130.09 in Medicaid funds, had been made from the BJCC payroll account. A joint investigation by the DOI and NYPD found that in June and July 2006 four electronic withdrawals ranging from \$9,000 to \$10,648 had been made from BJCC's payroll account. Investigators determined that PROKOPCHUK allegedly cited the BJCC payroll account's bank routing and account number while making electronic payments for his credit card bills at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank (\$19,648.48) and the Bank of America (\$18,481.61). All of these payments have been reversed and the funds have been credited back to the BJCC payroll account.

PROKOPCHUK has been employed with the New York City Transit Authority (MTA) since September 2002 and is a "light maintainer."

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the NYPD for its assistance and cooperation during the investigation, as well as HRA Commissioner Robert Doar and his staff, and the fraud departments of J.P. Morgan Chase Bank and the Bank of America.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Benjamin Defibaugh and members of his staff, including HRA Inspector General Rebecca Holland and Confidential Investigator Jaclyn Chall. The investigation by the NYPD was conducted by Detective William Fisher of the NYPD's 49th Precinct Detective Squad in the Bronx. The case is being prosecuted by the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints 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.

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