



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER NYCHA CARETAKER IN IDENTITY THEFT
-Used Names and SS Numbers of City Employees to open bank and credit card accounts -

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and RAYMOND KELLY, Commissioner of the Police Department, announced today the arrest of TYSHEAN HARRIS for using personal identification information of five City workers to obtain major credit cards, open bank accounts and purchase merchandise including jewelry, electronic equipment, a cell phone, men's clothing, a MetroCard, a watch and children's clothing.

HARRIS, 28, of Harlem, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the 3rd Degree, a Class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, Attempted Grand Larceny in the 4th Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 2nd degree, a Class D felony; and Forgery in the 2nd Degree, a Class D felony and Petit Larceny, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

HARRIS, a City employee from July 1997 until his resignation in April 2000, had been employed as a Caretaker "J" in the New York City Housing Authority's Technical Services Department's Lead and Abatement Unit, located at Riis Houses, on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint that emergency contact sheets had been stolen from a Technical Services Supervisor's (Employee 1) desk, said Commissioner Gill Hearn. As a result, DOI queried 24 individuals whose names appeared on missing personnel information.

Using Employee 1's name, HARRIS allegedly opened an account at Macy's and allegedly spent \$1,614 on many items such as a ring that spanned his four fingers and spelled his first name.

Using the identification of a second NYCHA employee, HARRIS allegedly opened a Sony Platinum credit card and purchased a total of \$4,369 of merchandise at Sam Ash music, as well as a MetroCard, money orders, groceries, and among other items, children's clothing. HARRIS allegedly tried to purchase a \$2,296 Dell computer but the order was not completed.

HARRIS allegedly used information of a third employee to open an Eddie Bauer Credit Card. He allegedly charged \$1,619 on that account.

Using the identification of a fourth employee, HARRIS allegedly opened a Citibank Money Market Account and cashed checks worth \$2,310 from this account.

HARRIS allegedly used the identification of a fifth employee to open an account with Citibank and wrote himself a check for \$400.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Chief Investigator Rosemary Caruso, and NYPD Detective Michael Wigdor, of the 9th Precinct.

The Office of New York District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Douglas Kaufman under the supervision of Bureau Chief Leroy Frazier is handling the matter.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***