



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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City WEP Worker Arrested For \$5,700 Computer & Cell Phone Theft

-Stole DDC Supervisor's Identity

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2000

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of SARDIER MOONSAMMY, a Work Experience Program (WEP) worker assigned to the City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) as a technical support aide, for unlawfully acquiring computer equipment and cellular telephone service, together worth over \$5,700, by impersonating a DDC supervisor and stealing her identity.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation in July when the victim complained to DDC that her name, birthdate, and Social Security number had been improperly used by someone to obtain a line of credit from Household Retail Services of Schaumburg, Illinois, and then to purchase a computer and other equipment worth \$3,572 from the Gateway Computer Company of North Sioux City, South Dakota. The victim also reported that her identity information had been used to open a Verizon Wireless cellular telephone account to obtain services worth \$2,172.

The DDC supervisor first learned that her identity may have been stolen in January, while on temporary leave, when she was notified that a loan account with the computer firm, apparently opened in her name, was "delinquent." The supervisor subsequently reported the matter to DDC in July, after she returned to work.

The DOI investigation disclosed that a computer monitor, 2 printers, hard drive, and software had been delivered, in 4 shipments in October and November 1999, to a basement apartment at 94-37 Lefferts Boulevard in South Richmond Hill, Queens, and that the delivery manifests had been signed by a person improperly using the DDC supervisor's name. The investigation further revealed that a Verizon Wireless cellular telephone service account, with an unpaid balance of \$2,172, had been opened in October 1999 by a person also purporting to be the supervisor, and that 144 telephone calls had been made from MOONSAMMY's home to the cellular phone between October 8, 1999, and February 15, 2000.

MOONSAMMY, 32, of 94-37 Lefferts Boulevard in Queens, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, both Class D felonies; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, and Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, all Class E felonies; and, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DDC Commissioner Kenneth Holden, the U.S. Postal Service, including Inspector Eric Brown, Household Retail Services, and the Gateway Computer Company for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation, which is continuing, is being conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DDC, Ronald P. Calvosa, and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Mary T. Piechocki, Assistant Inspector General Chuck Joe, and Confidential Investigator Omar Sarach.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Lourdes M. Ventura is handling the matter.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

For More Information

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