



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #045-99

DOI ARRESTS CONSTRUCTION FIRM OWNER IN \$7,500 PARKING TICKET SCAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of NEIL FARAONE, the former owner of Kabri Construction, Inc., of Manhattan, for having more than \$7,500 in parking tickets fraudulently dismissed.

In carrying out his scheme, FARAONE allegedly claimed that 136 summonses, issued to one of his company vehicles, were "technically defective" because they incorrectly identified the type of vehicle; in fact, FARAONE had fraudulently altered the vehicle's motor registration sticker so that the vehicle type incorrectly read "suburban" instead of "van."

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "For the past two years, the defendant parked with virtual impunity on the City's streets, often racking up more than a ticket a week, until an alert Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) in the Department of Finance's Parking Violations Operation (PVO) noticed that the numerous summonses issued to Faraone's vehicle all had the very same technical defect, even though different traffic enforcement agents had written the tickets. The ALJ subsequently reported his suspicions to PVO's Fraud Investigation Unit, which, in turn, notified DOI."

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles records indicated that the vehicle in question, a 1993 Suzuki Sidekick, was registered to Kabri Construction, a company formerly owned by FARAONE, and was classified as a "van." As part of its investigation, DOI determined that the registration sticker affixed to the Suzuki Sidekick's windshield had been altered so that the vehicle type was incorrectly listed as a "suburban" rather than a "van."

The felony complaint charges that, from August 1, 1997, through August 18, 1999, FARAONE, as owner of Kabri Construction, falsely submitted 136 claims to PVO requesting that his parking tickets be dismissed on the grounds that they were "technically defective" because traffic agents had entered erroneous information -- i.e., the incorrect vehicle type -- on the summonses. In furtherance of his scheme, FARAONE would enter a plea of "not guilty" on the back of each ticket, submit a copy of the true Motor Vehicle registration, and write, "please dismiss ticket, this vehicle is a van not a suburban." As a result, FARAONE had \$7,505 in parking tickets improperly dismissed.

Commissioner Kuriansky noted that all of the dismissed parking tickets will be reinstated and that FARAONE will be required to make full payment on each, including penalties and interest, to PVO.

Mr. Kuriansky expressed his appreciation to Department of Finance Commissioner Andrew S. Eristoff and New York City Sheriff Teresa Mason and their staffs for their assistance and cooperation during the course of

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the investigation.

FARAONE, 51, of Tarrytown, New York, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

FARAONE, who previously owned Kabri Construction, Inc., at 307 7th Avenue in Manhattan, is the owner and president of Excel Construction, Inc., which does business at the same address.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and PVO Inspector General Vincent E. Green, and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Alberta Ancrum and Investigator Roxanne Harmon.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Shawn Williams, of the District Attorney's Special Prosecutions Bureau, is handling the matter.