



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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EX-FEDCAP WORKER ARRESTED IN THEFT OF DEP MONEY ORDERS
-- Stole & Cashed 7 Water Payment Money Orders Totaling Over \$2,709 --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of DEMERITIA HERNDON, a former FedCap employee assigned to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Customer Services (BCS) in Queens, for stealing seven water payment money orders, totaling \$2,709, and then unlawfully cashing six of them.

HERNDON worked for FedCap Rehabilitative Services, Inc., a City vendor that places workers in various job assignments throughout New York City. From June 1999 to January 2002, HERNDON was employed as a data entry clerk in DEP's water board office, responsible for processing checks and money orders payable to the New York City Water Board and submitted by water usage customers.

DOI began its investigation after a customer service supervisor reported that a water board customer said her account had not been credited even though her money order had been cashed.

DOI investigators determined that over a four-month period, from August through November 2001, HERNDON allegedly had taken seven money orders, ranging from \$208 to \$573 in value, and cashed or deposited six of them in her personal bank account maintained at the Metro Federal Credit Union in Queens. FedCap has reimbursed the City in the amount of \$2,709.

HERNDON, 36, of Brooklyn, was terminated from her job at BCS in January 2002. She has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the First Degree, a Class C felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E felony. If convicted, she faces up to 15 years in prison.

"This arrest should signal those involved with illegal activity that we will investigate and make sure New York City taxpayers are not cheated," said Commissioner Gill Hearn, who thanked DEP Commissioner Christopher O. Ward, and members of his staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

Commissioner Ward said, "New York City rate-payers have the right to know that their water and sewer payments are in safe hands. DEP and the New York City Water Board know that New Yorkers will not tolerate such a breach of security. We are pleased DOI has identified and apprehended a suspect."

The investigation was conducted by John Kantor, DOI's acting Inspector General for DEP, and Examining Attorney Sandi Richman. The office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Daniel O'Leary will handle the matter.

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