



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #103-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2008

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO INDICTMENT ON CHARGES OF USING
STOLEN CREDIT CARD TO PAY 12 PARKING TICKETS AND OTHER BILLS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that a DOI investigation has resulted in the indictment in New York County Supreme Court of MUSTAFA RAMEEZ on charges of using a stolen credit card to pay 12 parking tickets and other bills between September and August 2007. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Senior Investigative Counsel Joanne Siegmund of the Special Prosecutions Bureau.

DOI began its investigation after it was notified by the City Department of Finance ("DOF") that it suspected RAMEEZ had made internet payments on at least 12 parking tickets he received on his car with a stolen credit card. DOI's investigation further revealed that RAMEEZ used a stolen credit card to pay, among other bills, approximately \$1,700 for parking tickets.

The indictment charges RAMEEZ, 33, of Freeport, N.Y. with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Identity Theft in the Second Degree, both class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison. RAMEEZ was arraigned today in New York County Supreme Court and his bail was set at \$10,000.

Since June 2006, DOI has investigated other cases involving theft and fraud in connection with parking ticket payment schemes, which have resulted in six previous arrests. Each of those cases resulted in convictions, and two of the defendants received prison sentences.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Everyone should know that using a stolen credit card to pay parking tickets is not only illegal but it will also result in arrest, prosecution and possible prison time. As this arrest demonstrates, the Finance Department identifies suspicious payments and notifies DOI. The two agencies will continue to work together to ensure that the City, and taxpayers, are not defrauded by this type of criminal conduct."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF Commissioner Martha E. Stark and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Inspector General Gia L. Morris, First Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo and Confidential Investigator Lynn Lauzier.

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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.