



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

Release # 063-2002

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2002

### **DOT EMPLOYEE FORGES CITY PARKING PERMITS** *-- Makes Money Selling Permits Ordinarily Free Of Charge --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Investigation (DOI) announced the arrest today of CHANNETTA CAMPBELL for illegally manufacturing and selling City issued parking permits to a DOI undercover investigator.

Campbell, 41, of Jamaica, Queens, was arrested at Queens Plaza after she sold 13 Single-Use On-Street Parking Permits for \$400 in cash. to an undercover DOI investigator. She will be charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree; Forgery in the Second Degree and Official Misconduct. If convicted, Campbell faces up to 14 years in prison.

Campbell worked for DOT for the past three years and was a clerical associate for the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Authorized Parking and Permits Bureau where she issued Single-Use On-Street Parking Permits and Clergy Parking Permits to government agencies and qualified non-profit organizations.

DOI began its investigation in July 2002 after receiving a tip from a DOT employee who claimed Campbell was issuing permits to unqualified organizations without official permission or authorization, as well as forging her supervisor's authorizing signature on the permits, said Gill Hearn. DOI obtained copies of forged permits, supporting correspondence and log book entries that revealed several instances of Campbell's improprieties. In some cases, Campbell used permit numbers already legitimately issued to other organizations on the fraudulent permits she created.

DOI created a ruse organization and an undercover investigator, posing as a representative of that organization, engaged Campbell in several recorded telephone conversations to discuss obtaining permits. Campbell agreed to meet with the DOI undercover investigator and on September 30, 2002, the undercover purchased five Single-Use On-Street Parking Permits from Campbell in exchange for \$200 in cash. All of the permits contained the supervisor's forged signature.

Commissioner Gill Hearn explained that Single-Use On-Street Parking Permits are issued to specific vehicles of non-profit groups for special events and to government agencies for temporary purposes to park in contradiction of some parking rules. The permit specifies days and hours of use, parking time limit, specific parking zones and sometimes specific vicinity at which the permit is valid. The permits are usually only issued for short period of calendar days. Clergy Parking Permits are issued to specific clergy vehicles to park in contradiction of some parking rules around specific houses of worship and medical facilities. There are no City fees to legitimately obtain either type of permit.

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All of the permits DOI purchased from Campbell provided very liberal parking privileges for a one year period and were not exclusive to a specific vehicle, said Gill Hearn.

"Channetta Campbell was not only dishonest but violated the public trust for her own selfish gains," said Gill Hearn. "Corruption like this cannot and will not be tolerated. It's unconscionable."

The investigation was conducted by Ronald P. Calvosa, the DOI Inspector General for the Department of Transportation and members of his staff including, First Deputy Inspector General Mary T. Piechocki, Assistant Inspector General John M. Bellanie and Special Investigator John C. Regan with the assistance of DOI Confidential Investigator Alexandra Hampton.

Commissioner Gill Hearn also expressed her appreciation to DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and members of her staff who assisted in the investigation.

Campbell will be prosecuted by the Queens County District Attorney's Office. Assistant District Attorney Yvonne Creque is assigned to the case.