



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FIREFIGHTER ON ASSAULT, GRAND LARCENY AND HARASSMENT CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") announced today the arrest of STEPHEN HUGHES, a Firefighter employed by the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), in connection with a September 22, 2008 incident in Staten Island. According to the criminal complaint, HUGHES twisted a woman's arm behind her back, forcibly removed an engagement ring from her finger and punched a wall in her residence, damaging it. DOI investigated this matter after receiving a complaint last week.

HUGHES, 25, of Staten Island, was arrested and arraigned late Tuesday, December 16, 2008, and charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; Assault in the Third Degree, Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree, all class A misdemeanors; and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Assaulting another person, as charged in this case, is a criminal act that breaches the standards of conduct expected of City employees. When the complaint was brought to DOI's attention, we acted promptly to ensure safety."

HUGHES has been a Firefighter with the FDNY since 2005, is currently assigned to Ladder 4 in Manhattan and receives an annual base salary of approximately \$53,920. As a result of the arrest, he has been suspended without pay.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY.

The office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. is prosecuting the case.

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.