



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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TAXI DISPATCHER ARRESTED FOR PARKING SUMMONS FRAUD

– He got mad at two drivers and tried to make them responsible for \$1200 in traffic summonses–

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of MOHAMED ABDELLATIF, a dispatcher for a taxi leasing company for assigning 13 New York City summonses for parking and moving violations to two of his drivers who were not responsible for the violations.

ABDELLATIF, 49, of Midtown Manhattan, has been charged with Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

DOI's investigation began after two taxi drivers, who had worked for ABDELLATIF at 28th Street Management, reported that ABDELLATIF had assigned multiple summonses to their driving records even though they themselves were not responsible for the violations that led to the summonses. Nine summonses totaling \$885 had been assigned to one complainant and four summonses totaling \$330 had been assigned to the other complainant. Eleven of the summonses were for parking violations and the remaining two were for red light camera summonses, which are issued after a camera photographs a car's license plate as the vehicle proceeds through an intersection after the traffic signal has turned red.

After examining 28th Street Management's records, DOI investigators determined that the complainants had not been assigned to the taxis when the summonses had been issued. Investigators discovered that through 28th Street Management's participation in the NYC Parking Violations Bureau (PVB) Rental Program – which requires taxi leasing companies to disclose names and addresses of drivers who receive summonses in exchange for absolving the leasing company for responsibility of the violations – ABDELLATIF allegedly falsified documents to make the two complainants responsible for the 13 summonses. In taped conversations with both complainants, ABDELLATIF said he knew the complainants were not the drivers who incurred the summonses and that he falsely assigned the summonses to the complainants because he believed the complainants owed him money from previous financial disputes.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked TLC Commissioner Matthew Daus and his staff for their assistance during the investigation, which was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso, and members of his staff, including DOI's Inspector General for TLC Tim Crowe, Chief Investigator James Christo, and Special Investigator Jared Feirstein. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is handling the matter, with Assistant District Attorney Joanne Siegmund prosecuting.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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