



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **SANITATION WORKER ARRESTED**

***- Collected Unemployment While Also Getting Paid at City Job -***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ROBERT BOSWELL, a Department of Sanitation (DOS) worker, for unlawfully collecting \$2,784 in unemployment compensation.

Boswell, 41, of College Point, Queens, was arrested this morning at DOS Queens West 1 Garage. He has been charged with Grand Larceny in the fourth degree, offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree and falsifying business records in the first degree. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint from DOS Deputy Commissioner for Administration, who had been contacted by the New York State Department of Labor. The State DOL wanted to verify Boswell's employment status. Investigators determined Boswell had collected unemployment checks from February 2000 through July 9, 2000 without notifying the Department of Labor his employment status had changed. Boswell continued making weekly telephone calls to DOL in order to claim his benefits. He knowingly provided false information, which enabled him to continue to collect unemployment insurance.

Boswell, a sanitation worker since March 20, 2000, earns \$32,231 a year, excluding overtime. He has been suspended without pay.

"Times are tough for many of us, but that's no excuse for people who take advantage of a system designed to help those in need," said Gill Hearn. "Boswell's greed took money that could have gone to someone who was out of work and desperate to feed his or her family and pay his or her bills."

This investigation was conducted by Robert Roach, DOI's Inspector General for DOS, and members of his staff, including Marcia Hinds, Assistant Inspector General.

The Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke of the Economic Crimes Bureau is handling the matter.

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