



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER EXECUTIVE AT ARTS NONPROFIT ON THEFT CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of HARVEY SEIFTER, the former Executive Director of Flushing Council on Culture and the Arts ("FCCA") in Queens and a former consultant with Americans for the Arts ("AFTA"), on charges of stealing approximately \$4,230 from the organizations. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

SEIFTER, 55, of Manhattan, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, both class D felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Executives at City-funded nonprofits must be careful stewards of their organizations' money. Intentionally double billing is a crime that wastes precious resources."

DOI began investigating after it was notified by the City Department of Cultural Affairs about allegations involving improper transactions made by SEIFTER at FCCA. SEIFTER was FCCA's Executive Director from September 2003 and was receiving a salary of \$147,000 when he left in November 2006. During that time, he was also a consultant for AFTA, which has offices in Washington D.C. and Manhattan.

According to the criminal complaint, between February 2004 and May 2006, while performing services for both FCCA and AFTA, SEIFTER used a FCCA-issued debit card and a personal credit card for business expenses at both organizations. DOI's investigation found that SEIFTER illegally obtained approximately \$4,230 from the two nonprofits through a combination of double-billing for the same expenses and using a FCCA debit card for an AFTA-related expense.

DOI's investigation included an extensive review of business records from FCCA, AFTA and SEIFTER, which revealed the duplicate receipts.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate D. Levin and Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and their staffs, for their assistance in the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the current FCCA Executive Director Ellen Kodadek for her and her staff's cooperation in the investigation.

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The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for the Department of Cultural Affairs, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Caputo and Investigative Auditor Boris Galchenko, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Richard Krause, Assistant Commissioner Paul Balukas, Inspector General Pat Russo and Counsel to the Inspector General Jennifer Fiellman.

The case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Michelle Cort from the office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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.**