



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS WOMAN FOR STEALING MONEY ORDERS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of SHONTAYE M. TEEL for stealing 13 money-orders worth more than \$3,000 that were made payable to the New York City Department of Finance.

TEEL, 22, of Brooklyn, was charged March 31, 2004 with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, Forgery in the Second and Third Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree and Petit Larceny. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI began its investigation after receiving numerous complaints from at least 10 consumers who received delinquent notices after they mailed money-orders to the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) Parking Violations Operations (PVO) to pay for outstanding parking summons. Investigators traced these money orders and determined that they had been altered and used as payments for a Discover credit card account, among others, that belonged to TEEL. The money orders fraudulently negotiated totaled \$3,148.28. This investigation is ongoing.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked William Kezer, Inspector in Charge for the New York Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service, as well as Martha E. Stark, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Finance, and members of their staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Assistant Commissioner Vincent E. Green, Deputy Inspector General Alberta Ancrum, and Special Investigator Daniel Lau. The office of the Kings County District Attorney is handling the case.

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

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.

To make complaints about someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.