



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CITY TEMP WORKER ON FRAUD AND THEFT CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of SEBASTIAN PERSON, a former testing monitor at the City Department of Citywide Administrative Services ("DCAS"), on charges of cashing a counterfeit City check and falsely stating on his job application that he had no criminal record, when, in fact, he had been convicted of a class C felony. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

PERSON, 44, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony; Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony; and Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, 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, "Cashing a forged City check is a crime that will lead only to arrest and prosecution. Fortunately, by reporting this matter to DOI, HRA enabled our investigators to weed out an employee who is charged not only with stealing but with falsifying his record in his City job application."

DOI began investigating after it was notified by the City Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services ("HRA") that PERSON cashed a counterfeit HRA check.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that PERSON cashed a forged HRA check at a check cashing establishment in the amount of \$356.

The City has security features in place to identify and stop payment on altered and counterfeit City checks, which ensure that the City does not suffer a loss due to that illegal conduct. The City did not, in fact, lose any money as a result of this charged scheme, although the check cashing establishment did suffer a loss of \$356.

PERSON was employed at DCAS from June 2006 to January 2008 as a per-diem monitor for civil service exams. PERSON received approximately \$3,760 in City wages in 2007 and 2008.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found PERSON failed to disclose on his 2006 job application that he had been convicted of Burglary in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and had been

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sentenced to 6½ to 13 years in prison and was released from prison in 2005. PERSON is currently on supervised parole in Manhattan.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HRA Commissioner Robert Doar and DCAS Commissioner Martha K. Hirst, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and his staff for the prosecution of this case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's offices of the Inspector General for HRA and DCAS, including Inspector Generals Pat Russo and Faisal Khan, Chief Investigator Anthony DeLeo and Special Investigator Matthew Befort.

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.**