



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER SANITATION AGENT FOR SECOND TIME IN THREE WEEKS
— *She demands and receives cash for not issuing summonses even after she resigned from City agency* —

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of MONICA FERRARA for soliciting and accepting money to not issue summonses to Staten Island businesses. FERRARA resigned from her job as a Sanitation Enforcement Agent three weeks ago when she was arrested on similar charges.

FERRARA, 30, of Staten Island, will be charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the fourth degree, two counts of Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and five counts of Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree. If convicted, she faces up to four years in jail.

Today's charges result from complaints DOI received following FERRARA's arrest March 18, 2004 for soliciting and accepting approximately \$290 worth of bribes to not issue Sanitation summonses to Staten Island businesses. Recently, other business owners reported to DOI that a woman resembling FERRARA came to their stores and demanded money not to write summonses. FERRARA allegedly wore a Sanitation Enforcement Agent uniform but lacked proper New York City identification because it was confiscated on March 18, 2004 when she was arrested and tendered her resignation. DOI investigators determined that on March 31, 2004 — nearly two weeks after her first arrest — FERRARA asked for and received \$50 from a restaurant in Staten Island after she threatened to issue a summons for recycling violations, which were not in effect until the next day, April 1, 2004. In addition, on March 31, 2004 and April 1, 2004, FERRARA also demanded money from two other businesses. Those businesses refused to pay her.

"Ms. FERRARA has brazenly continued to try to defraud unsuspecting Staten Island citizens for her own personal financial gain: Her ruse is over," said DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn. "New Yorkers should know that her unscrupulous behavior does not represent the majority of hard-working, honest City employees. I thank the business owners who have reported Ms. FERRARA's ongoing fraudulent activities."

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn advised City residents and business owners to protect themselves against fraudulent inspectors by asking individuals who claim they are conducting City business to display official City identification. In addition, Commissioner Gill Hearn asked those who think they may have been scammed to contact DOI by calling 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.

This investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Robert Roach, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Sanitation (DOS), Julia Davis, and DOI's Deputy Inspector for DOS, Frank Florida. The office of the Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan is prosecuting 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.