



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #17-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WENESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN MAN FOR FILING FALSE CLAIM FOR A REPLACEMENT CITY CHECK

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of a Brooklyn man filing a false affidavit of forgery with the City Department of Finance (“DOF”) in an unsuccessful effort to obtain a replacement City check for \$485. DOI began its investigation after DOF forwarded the affidavit and a copy of the supposedly forged check. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Filing a false claim for a City check is a no-win strategy. For a failed attempt to defraud the taxpayers, according to the complaint, this defendant faces criminal prosecution.”

THOMAS GAINES, 22, of Brooklyn, was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, which upon conviction, is punishable by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, on September 10, 2009, GAINES filed a notarized affidavit of forgery with DOF claiming that the signature on the cashed check that the City had issued to him was not his. DOI’s investigation found a photograph of the defendant cashing the original check at a Brooklyn check-cashing establishment, where he had an account.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF’s Commissioner David M. Frankel and New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs, for their assistance in the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the check cashing establishment for its cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DOF, specifically Inspector General Faisal Khan, Deputy Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, and Special Investigator Jennifer Adams, under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green.

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.

**DOI’s press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**