



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: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**BRONX MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SUBMITTING A FORGED LETTER THAT FALSELY STATED
HE HELD A SOCIAL WORK LICENSE**

---An ACS-contracted organization hired him to work as a mental health consultant---

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today that DANIEL RODRIGUEZ, 38, of the Bronx, pleaded guilty to submitting a forged letter to Palladia, Inc., a contracted agency of the Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), to gain employment as a mental health consultant.

Today, in New York Supreme Court, Bronx County, RODRIGUEZ pleaded guilty to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony. He faces two to four years in prison on this charge when he is sentenced on April 17, 2007.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI's investigation of this case uncovered a potentially dangerous situation – someone working as a mental health consultant who did not have the necessary academic credentials or experience for the job. Mr. Rodriguez's deception was revealed by DOI and should be a warning to anyone seeking employment with the City, or working for an agency that receives City funds: Submitting fake or forged documents is illegal. As this case shows, there are serious consequences to taking that risk, including possible prison time."

In December 2006, the Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") notified DOI that it had concerns about RODRIGUEZ, who was hired by Palladia, Inc. to work as a mental health consultant on its Bronx clinical consultation team.

RODRIGUEZ pleaded guilty to submitting a forged letter from the New York State Education Department Office of the Professions stating that he was a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. No license was ever issued to anyone with RODRIGUEZ's name.

Prior to pleading guilty, RODRIGUEZ also faced other allegations in this case and was charged in a criminal complaint with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor,

and Unauthorized Practice, a Class E felony. According to the criminal complaint, RODRIGUEZ allegedly submitted to Palladia a forged “notification of completion” letter from The College of New Rochelle that stated he had been awarded a “master’s of science in social work” from the South Bronx campus. But the college does not offer a master’s in social work and RODRIGUEZ had not graduated from the college.

RODRIGUEZ began working at Palladia in July 2006. As a mental health consultant, his job was to provide ACS child protective services’ staff with advice about the mental health needs of parents and children in families being investigated for abuse and/or neglect. Palladia terminated RODRIGUEZ’s employment on January 12, 2007 as a result of the allegations.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s ACS Inspector General Rebecca Holland. The case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jessica Lupo of the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are 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.***