



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS SANITATION SUPERVISOR
ON CHARGE OF FORGING A PURPORTED HANDGUN PERMIT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of JOHN FITZGERALD, a Supervisor with the Department of Sanitation ("DSNY") and a former Lieutenant in DSNY'S Sanitation Police unit, on felony charges that he provided a retired DSNY Police Officer with a forged New York City Police Department (NYPD) handgun permit.

FITZGERALD, 46, of Garden City Park, N.Y., was charged with Forgery in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "When a City employee entrusted with responsibility for firearms and the proper processing of applications for handgun permits instead creates and issues a phony permit, as charged here, that conduct is so plainly unlawful and contrary to acceptable standards of public safety that it warrants a severe remedy, including arrest and criminal prosecution and the immediate removal of the employee from all such duties."

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that DOI's investigation stemmed from an allegation that in July 2007, FITZGERALD, while assigned as a Sanitation Police Lieutenant at DSNY'S Sanitation Police Field Training Unit at 51-13 Flushing Avenue in Queens, met a retired Sanitation Police Officer in a parking lot in Staten Island and gave the retired officer a document that FITZGERALD said was a photocopy of a handgun permit issued by the NYPD. According to the criminal complaint, the retired officer had previously asked FITZGERALD, whose duties included serving as a DSNY "custodian of weapons," to assist him in securing a handgun permit and a renewal of a second permit from NYPD. As charged in the complaint, DOI's investigation revealed that the NYPD had not issued the permit that FITZGERALD allegedly gave to the retired officer and further revealed that a typewriter at FITZGERALD'S DSNY work location appeared to have been used to type the information on the phony permit. Commissioner Gill Hearn said that FITZGERALD, who has worked for DSNY for approximately 25 years and receives an annual salary of \$67,022, was removed in August 2007 from his previous assignment with the Sanitation Police and was suspended from work today.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DSNY Commissioner John Doherty and his staff for their cooperation in the investigation.

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DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Sanitation Timothy Crowe and Acting Deputy Inspector General Yves Désiré conducted the investigation with the assistance of DOI's Investigative Squad.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Daniel O'Leary of the Public Integrity Bureau.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.**