



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS INDIVIDUAL FOR USING A STOLEN IDENTITY TO FRAUDULENTLY BUY A BMW

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of RAFAEL MORENO for allegedly stealing an individual's identity and using it to fraudulently purchase a BMW automobile under the victim's name.

RAFAEL MORENO, 37, of the Bronx, NY, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree. If convicted, MORENO faces up to 7 years in prison.

MORENO allegedly illegally obtained an individual's personal identifying information, opened two accounts at two investment institutions, and paid for a BMW costing \$44,437.50 by signing a purchase contract and writing a check in the victim's name. MORENO admitted to fraudulently purchasing the BMW, and the BMW dealer's staff identified him as the purchaser of the car.

DOI's investigation also revealed that MORENO opened a Post Office box and created a fake Ohio Driver's License in the victim's name as a means of photo identification. MORENO admitted to investigators that the driver's license he used was fraudulent and that he has never been to Ohio.

This arrest is part of an ongoing DOI investigation into identity theft affecting City employees, which, to date, has resulted in four arrests prior to Moreno's current arrest. Moreno was previously arrested in Westchester County in 1999 for attempting to open a Home Depot credit card in the name of a City employee without that person's knowledge or permission. Moreno was convicted of Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree and sentenced to 90 days' imprisonment for that activity.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant allegedly stole an unsuspecting person's identity and used it to acquire a luxury automobile. Because of his criminal actions, he could find himself behind bars. I urge New Yorkers to protect themselves against identity theft by safeguarding personal information."

The investigation was conducted by Robert Joyce, DOI's Inspector General for DCAS, and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Mary Kozlow and former Confidential Investigator Roberto Cepeda.

The Office of the Westchester County District Attorney is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Patrick Macarchuck is handling the matter.

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 make complaints about someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.*