



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #40-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2010**

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

**DOI ARRESTS LICENSED STREET VENDOR CHARGED WITH
SUBMITTING FORGED LICENSE TO CITY FOR RENEWAL**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a City-licensed General Vendor on a charge of submitting to the City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") a forged license for renewal. DOI began investigating after it was notified by DCA that the defendant had submitted an apparently fake General Vendor's License. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Using a fake license to bypass City street vendor requirements is not the way to do business in New York City. In fact, it is a reckless decision that will result in arrest."

MOUSSA MBAYE, 52, of Harlem, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

MBAYE held a General Vendor License that allowed him to vend anywhere in the City except midtown. All General Vendors are required to appear at DCA on a yearly basis to renew their licenses. General Vendor Licenses are non-transferable.

According to the criminal complaint, MBAYE held a valid DCA-issued General Vendor License since 1990 and in August 2009 submitted a fake General Vendor License for renewal. DOI's investigation found that the license submitted by MBAYE was fraudulent.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DCA Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Douglas Kaufman of the New York County District Attorney's Office is assigned to the prosecution of this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for DCA, specifically Investigator Marcel Dimbeng under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Mary Kozlow and 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.**