



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

**Release #42-2004**  
**nyc.gov/html/doi**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2004**

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST**  
**(212)825-5931**

**PARAMEDIC ARRESTED FOR TRYING TO STEAL VALIUM FROM A PATIENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the felony arrest of JANET BERG, a paramedic employed by the New York City Fire Department.

BERG, 43, of the Bronx, was arrested this afternoon in the Bronx for allegedly taking more than 20 Valium tablets from an undercover investigator. Charges against her are pending.

In response to allegations from patients who claimed they lost prescription medicine while in BERG's care, DOI initiated an integrity test on BERG, who is assigned to EMS Battalion 18 on Washington Avenue in the Bronx. Two undercover officers, one of whom posed as a patient suffering from severe back pain, parked their car at the intersection of 172 St. and Washington Ave. in the Bronx and flagged down BERG's ambulance for help. Inside the undercover vehicle, which had been wired for audio and video, was a bottle filled with 55 pills of Valium and a bottle filled with 22 Codeine pills. While the patient was being treated inside the ambulance, BERG made two trips to the undercover vehicle and allegedly stole about half of the Valium pills. The undercover/patient was transported to St. Barnabus Hospital in the Bronx. Confronted by investigators when she returned to her Battalion, BERG said she stashed the pills in a glove inside a trash can at St. Barnabus. Investigators recovered the missing pills inside the glove.

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said, "The conduct with which Paramedic BERG has been charged is very troubling. Sick or injured New Yorkers should feel confident that not only are they receiving the best possible medical care but that their property/belongings are safe. Ms. BERG's conduct undermines that very confidence." Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta for his assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's office of the Inspector General for FDNY. The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney Denise Kodjo will prosecute.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.***  
***To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***