



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release 42--2006
www.nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2006**

**CONTACT: KEITH SCHWAM
(212) 825-5931**

DOI ARRESTS DOT EMPLOYEE FOR STEALING FROM PARKING METERS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of PEDRO RAMIREZ, a New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Parking Meter Service Worker, for allegedly stealing coins from New York City parking meters.

RAMIREZ, 55, of the Bronx, has been charged with Official Misconduct and Petit Larceny. If convicted, he faces up to one year in jail.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Stealing from the City is a bad idea. A City employee who steals faces not only arrest and jail, but also the loss of his or her job and benefits. Fortunately, a number of people noticed and reported these thefts, insuring that this bad apple was caught and the taxpayers' money was saved."

DOI initiated this investigation after DOI and DOT received complaints that RAMIREZ was stealing coins from parking meters. Investigators conducted surveillances and made video recordings of RAMIREZ, and yesterday in Brooklyn, DOI investigators arrested RAMIREZ after he was observed removing coins from two meters and putting the coins – 226 quarters — in his pocket instead of in the locked container where they belonged. RAMIREZ, who has been with DOT since 1999, has been a meter collector since 2003. His salary is \$29,551.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and members of her staff, including DOT's Internal Security/Special Investigations Unit, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This is not the first DOI investigation that has led to the arrest and prosecution of individuals stealing money from parking meters. On March 23, 2006, a DOT Supervising Parking Meter Service Worker was arrested and charged with Official Misconduct, Petit Larceny, and other crimes. Between 2001 and 2002, a DOI investigation led to the arrest, indictment, and conviction of ten individuals for conspiracy and theft of tens of thousands of dollars from New York City parking meters. In 1998, DOI arrested a DOT supervisor for stealing more than \$3,000 in quarters from a DOT facility. That defendant was convicted of Grand Larceny and was fired from DOT.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOT Mary T. Piechocki and members of her staff, including First Deputy Inspector General John Bellanie, Assistant Inspector General Chuck Joe, Assistant Inspector General Edward Zinser and Investigator Alison Bonfoey. The office of the King's County District Attorney will prosecute this case.

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.***