



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #43-2007
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007**

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

**DOI ARRESTS AN EMPLOYEE OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FOR ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTING 18 FALSE DOCTORS' NOTES**

--DOI investigation found alleged forgeries resulted in more than \$4,000 in sick leave paid to employee--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a Construction Laborer with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for allegedly submitting numerous false doctors' notes, which resulted in the wrongful receipt of salary benefits estimated at \$4,202.

PRESTON BROWN, 36, of Queens, was arrested on 18 counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony; and one count each of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, BROWN faces up to seven years in prison. Brown has been working at DEP for nearly seven years and he was earning an annual salary of about \$68,000.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint from DEP alleging BROWN submitted several fraudulent doctors' notices. After reviewing DEP documentation and other records, DOI investigators learned that the doctor whose name BROWN allegedly forged retired two years ago from the practice. In addition, the medical establishment BROWN used on the sick notes changed its name approximately five years ago and was no longer using the letterhead that BROWN submitted as recently as last year. In all, BROWN is accused of submitting 18 forged doctors' notes and receiving compensation for 22 days of sick leave between 2005 and 2006.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, Emily Lloyd, and members of her staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by members of the DEP's Office of the Inspector General, including Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Kantor, Deputy Inspector General Michael Carroll, First Assistant Inspector General Michael Healy and Confidential Investigator Zeola Fox.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting 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.