



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER DOF EMPLOYEE FOR ALLEGEDLY USING CITY COMPUTER
TO ACCESS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City (City) Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the results of an investigation that culminated in the arrest of NEIL HARMANDE (HARMANDE), a former Principal Administrative Assistant with the City Department of Finance (DOF) for allegedly using his DOF office computer to access Internet sites containing sexually explicit photographs of children. On several dates between January 1, 2005 and June 27, 2005, HARMANDE is accused of viewing fourteen (14) photographs that depicted young children engaging in sexual conduct.

HARMANDE, 47, of Clifton Park, N.Y., was arrested Tuesday, June 12, 2007, and has been charged with fourteen (14) counts of Possessing a Sexual Performance by a Child and 14 counts of Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child. Both offenses are class E felonies. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison. HARMANDE, who worked for DOF for approximately 22 years, was suspended by DOF immediately in June 2005 after DOF discovered his alleged conduct. He subsequently resigned in August 2005. At the time of his resignation, HARMANDE's annual salary was \$38,331.

DOI's investigation began in June 2005 after DOF reported that its Internet filters detected HARMANDE had accessed inappropriate and sexually explicit websites. DOI investigators determined that HARMANDE used his DOF computer to search for and access a variety of Internet sites containing sexually explicit photographs of children. The children displayed in the images appeared to be pre-pubescent.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The allegations in this case are very troubling and should be a warning to every municipal employee. City equipment is to be used solely for work purposes and certainly never to pursue criminal conduct such as accessing child pornography. The Finance Department did exactly the right thing by reporting this case to us. DOI will continue to investigate this type of illegal behavior and individuals who choose to participate will face serious consequences."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark and members of her staff for reporting this case to DOI and for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by Associate Commissioner Robert Joyce, DOF Inspector General Gia Morris, Special Investigator Erskine Fleming and the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. Assistant District Attorney Shirley Irick will prosecute the 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, office, 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.