



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS WOMAN FOR PAYING \$500 BRIBE TO UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR
-She Wanted Environmental Control Board Violation "Wiped" from City Computer System-

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of PRAXEDES "MAGGIE" JIMENEZ for paying bribes to a DOI undercover investigator, who posed as an Environmental Control Board (ECB) clerk, in order to eliminate a \$1,500 fine that had been imposed in connection with a Department of Sanitation violation. The Environmental Control Board (ECB) is a part of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but acts as an administrative tribunal that provides hearings on notices of violation issued by other City agencies for various "quality of life" infractions of the City's laws and rules.

JIMENEZ, 35, of Queens Village, Queens, has been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree and Giving Unlawful Gratuities. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after an employee at the ECB's Queens office reported to DOI that a woman, later identified as JIMENEZ, sought to communicate privately at the ECB customer service window with an ECB clerk for the purpose of "taking care of" a pending violation fine. JIMENEZ gave the clerk her cellular telephone number and requested the clerk to contact her later. The clerk gave the phone number to a DOI undercover investigator, who contacted JIMENEZ. JIMENEZ told the undercover investigator that she wanted the pending fine to be "reduced" or "wiped out." On two occasions, in March and April 2004, the DOI undercover wore a concealed recording device when she met with JIMENEZ, who offered and paid the undercover \$250, for a total of \$500, to "wipe out" the pending \$1,500 fine that had been imposed by an ECB Hearing Officer. JIMENEZ is still expected to pay her fine.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This case is another example of DOI's effort to prevent the corruption of honest, hard-working City employees: ECB reported suspicious activity and DOI investigated. In addition, this case should be a reminder to those individuals who are considering bribing City employees – it's a risky proposition that will lead to criminal charges."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Christopher O. Ward, and members of the ECB's staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

This case was investigated by DOI's Acting Inspector General for DEP John B. Kantor, and members of his staff including Special Investigator James Christo and Special Investigator Charlie Merceica. The office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney Dan O'Leary will prosecute.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.