



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT
ON CHARGES OF STEALING \$4,500 IN UNEARNED CITY PAY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of SHENEQUA AYALA, a former employee of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"), on charges of stealing approximately \$4,500 by submitting false timecards indicating she had worked on certain dates when in fact she was no longer employed at DPR. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

DOI's investigation began after it was notified by DPR about irregularities regarding AYALA's time records.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "City-funded training programs are intended to help people prepare for jobs, not learn how to steal from their employers, as charged in this case. The consequences of stealing from the City include criminal prosecution, not a smart way to prepare for future employment."

SHENEQUA AYALA, 28, of the Bronx, is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree class D felonies, and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

AYALA was hired in February of 2008 under DPR's Parks Opportunity Program ("POP"), which trains participants in skills such as custodial, clerical, and fix-it services and security. She was paid approximately \$8.50 per hour and had received approximately \$9,000 by the time her placement ended in August 2008.

According to the criminal complaint, after her POP placement ended, AYALA submitted timecards to DPR for dates and times when she was no longer working for DPR and forged a supervisor's signature. AYALA told her former supervisor that she had been assigned to another DPR location. DOI's investigation found that AYALA submitted forged timecards to DPR through interoffice mail and continued to collect a paycheck until February 2009, receiving approximately \$4,500 in unearned pay.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DPR Commissioner Adrian Benepe and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance on the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DPR assisted by DOI's Investigative Squad. Assistant District Attorney James Roberts is prosecuting 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, 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.