



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS EMPLOYEE WITH THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE
ON CHARGES OF STEALING ESTATE CASH AND USING COUNTERFEIT CHECKS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of ARTHUR ORIKHER, an employee with the Kings County Public Administrator's ("PA's") Office, on felony charges of stealing \$3,300 in cash from that office and with knowingly depositing two counterfeit checks, in the amounts of \$6,500 and \$3,469, into his personal bank account. Today's arrest resulted from a DOI investigation; the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

ORIKHER, 37, of Brooklyn, has been charged with three counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies, Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, and other crimes. Conviction of a class D felony can result in a prison sentence of up to seven years.

ORIKHER was hired by the PA's Office in December 2007 as a Community Coordinator to perform accounting duties, at an annual salary of \$50,000. His employment was terminated today.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This individual is charged with stealing money he was supposed to safeguard for estate beneficiaries and with passing counterfeit checks to his bank. The charged conduct obviously violates the fundamental obligations and standards of personal integrity required of any public servant, to say nothing of one paid by the City to conserve the money and valuables of the deceased."

DOI began its investigation on April 30, 2008, immediately after officials in the PA's Office reported that cash was missing from a bank deposit made that afternoon. The PA's Office manages the estates of people who die without wills and without family members willing and qualified to administer the estates.

According to the felony complaint, on April 30, 2008, at the PA's Office, a PA employee gave ORIKHER a sealed envelope containing \$33,000 in cash that had been collected that day from a decedent's safe deposit box, which ORIKHER was supposed to secure in a safe until the money could be deposited in the PA's bank later that day. However, rather than securing the money, the complaint charges, ORIKHER removed \$3,300, deposited \$2,100 of it into his personal account at the Bank of America, and used the remaining \$1,200 for personal purposes.

The complaint also charges that in March and April 2008, ORIKHER deposited two counterfeit checks with a total combined face value of \$9,969 into his personal account at Commerce Bank.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Investigative Squad and DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Public Administrators' Offices, including Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright and Chief Auditor Floralba Paulino.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorneys Salvatore Davi and Michelle Malone, under the supervision of Jeffrey Ferguson, Deputy Bureau Chief, of the Rackets Division.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. All 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.**