



The City of New York
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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT JOB TRAINEE CHARGED WITH STEALING
AGENCY GAS CARD TO PURCHASE MORE THAN \$3,000 WORTH OF GAS FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a former Job Training Participant with the City Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") who stole a gasoline credit card from the Parks Department and used it to purchase more than \$3,000 in gas for private vehicles between 2006 and 2008, according to the criminal complaint. DOI's investigation began after DPR reported that one of its credit cards had been used to purchase gas for a non-City vehicle. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant abused her job training opportunity to steal from the City, according to the criminal complaint. Anyone who steals City funds to gas up a private vehicle is headed down a dead-end street to arrest and prosecution. Thankfully, the Parks Department's notification to DOI allowed investigators to uncover the fraud and arrest the person charged with the crime. DOI has also worked with the Parks Department to strengthen its safeguards of agency gas cards."

DEIRDRE MILLER, 37, of Manhattan, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, class D felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

MILLER was hired in May 2006 under DPR's Parks Opportunity Program ("POP"), which trains participants in skills such as custodial, clerical, and fix-it services. She was paid \$8.16 per hour and received approximately \$7,534 by the time her placement ended in November 2006. She was assigned to the operations division on Randall's Island that is responsible for the distribution of fleet cards.

According to the criminal complaint, some DPR employees are given gas credit cards to be used for City vehicles. Each card recipient is issued a unique PIN number allowing him or her to use DPR's cards. The defendant was not assigned a DPR gas credit card and had no permission or authority to use one. DOI's investigation found that the defendant stole a DPR gas credit card and numerous PINs from DPR's Randall's Island site and used them to charge over \$3,000 in unauthorized purchases between September 2006 and May 2008.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and DPR Commissioner Adrian Benepe and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

DOI's Office of Inspector General for DPR conducted the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Douglas Kaufman of the New York Your County District Attorney's Office has been assigned to the prosecution of this case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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.

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