



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CORRECTION OFFICER FOR COLLECTING \$25,000 IN UNDESERVED SICK PAY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of New York City Correction Officer BRUCE STUCKO, who submitted more than 30 fraudulent doctor’s notes to the New York City Department of Correction and collected more than \$25,000 in sick pay.

STUCKO, 45, of Middletown, NY has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony; 38 Counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony; 38 Counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing, a Class D Felony; and Official Misconduct, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, STUCKO faces up to seven years imprisonment. STUCKO has been a Correction Officer for more than 14 years and earns approximately \$54,000 a year.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “By forging these doctor’s notes, Mr. STUCKO essentially robbed not only the City’s coffers but also New York City taxpayers. Mr. STUCKO should have learned long ago that pretending to be sick is the oldest and least successful trick in the book.”

After receiving a tip, DOI investigators examined more than 30 doctor’s reports purportedly signed by two physicians who had examined STUCKO and indicated that he was unable to return to his duties as a Correction Officer because he was sick with a variety of ailments. Some of these notes allowed STUCKO to remain on sick leave for a minimum of five work days in a row. Investigators also determined that the physicians’ signatures had been forged and that STUCKO had not been examined on the dates and times indicated by the doctor’s notes he gave DOC. In total, these forged doctor reports — given to DOC from June 2002 until February 2004 — enabled STUCKO to receive more than \$25,000 in sick pay. This investigation is ongoing.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso, and members of his staff including, First Deputy Inspector General Meera Cattafesta and DOC Captain Vincent Valerio. The case is being handled by the Office of the Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown. Assistant District Attorney Daniel O’Leary, under the direction of Chief of the District Attorney’s Integrity Bureau, James Liander, will prosecute.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*