



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**LIVERY DRIVER ARRESTED FOR POSSESSING A FORGED TLC LICENSE**  
*-- His own TLC license expired five years ago--*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI) announced today the arrest of livery driver JOSE P. PALAGUACHI for possessing a forged Taxi and Limousine Commission license that he used to drive livery cars in New York City.

PALAGUACHI, 27, of Queens, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree. If convicted, PALAGUACHI faces up to seven years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after TLC reported that two individuals from the same car service company had been driving with the same TLC license number. PALAGUACHI told investigators he had copied and altered his cousin's TLC license so that it bore his name and photograph but featured his cousin's TLC license number. PALAGUACHI's TLC license expired in May 1999 and he has not renewed it.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked TLC Commissioner MATTHEW DAUS and his staff, as well as NYPD Lieutenant Tim Lyon and Police Officers Jason Trees and Mike Smith, for their assistance and cooperation with this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Inspector General for TLC Timothy Crowe and members of his staff including Special Investigator James Christo and Michelle Flores, as well as Confidential Investigator Jared Feirstein. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney Daniel O' Leary 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.***