



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
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DOI ARRESTS TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION CLERK ON BRIBE RECEIVING CHARGE

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a Clerical Associate at the Taxi & Limousine Commission ("TLC") licensing office in Long Island City on a charge of soliciting and collecting a bribe from an undercover DOI investigator posing as an applicant for a TLC license. DOI initiated an undercover integrity test after TLC reported an allegation that a clerk in that office had solicited money from a tardy applicant and collected the money in an on-site bathroom. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Any City employee who solicits or accepts money to perform his or her job not only faces arrest and prosecution but foolishly risks his or her career. These charges show there is no tolerance for City employees who shake down customers."

LENWOOD L. JONES, 59, of Manhattan, N.Y., was charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Receiving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

JONES has been employed with TLC since March 2005, is assigned to TLC's licensing facility in Long Island City, Queens, and receives an annual salary of approximately \$35,285.

According to the criminal complaint, at about 11 a.m. today, August 17, 2010, a DOI investigator posing as an applicant walked into the TLC licensing office in Queens for an 8 a.m. appointment. JONES told the undercover investigator that someone who is late should not be processed and the undercover investigator should buy JONES lunch. The undercover investigator left the premises, and, when the undercover returned, JONES asked if the undercover had JONES's lunch money and to meet in the bathroom. The undercover investigator met JONES in the bathroom and held out \$50. JONES grabbed the cash, which was later recovered from his pocket.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked TLC Commissioner David Yassky and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for TLC.

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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