



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: CAROL STRICKLAND
(212) 825-5931

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR FACES LOSS OF CITY BUSINESS IN PHONY PERMIT SCAM
-- Employee arrested for submitting forged permits with payment requests --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) announced today the felony arrest of an employee of the NORWAY ELECTRIC CORPORATION on charges of submitting 16 forged Department of Buildings (DOB) permits to the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and fraudulently obtaining \$6,460 for NORWAY ELECTRIC's work. NORWAY ELECTRIC has been removed from HPD's list of pre-qualified vendors and other City contracting agencies have been alerted.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The City's vendors must maintain the highest standard of integrity in dealing with the City. Knowingly using a forged document to trick a City agency into paying for contract work is not only antithetical to that standard, it is a crime and will result in criminal prosecution of those responsible."

SUSAN PEMBERTON, a.k.a. EULYN JULLITA PEMBERTON, 41, of the Bronx, a secretary for NORWAY ELECTRIC for five years, was arrested and charged today with 16 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the first degree. If convicted, PEMBERTON faces up to 4 years in prison.

PEMBERTON is charged with submitting the phony permits to HPD to make it appear, falsely, that NORWAY ELECTRIC had obtained DOB permits for emergency repairs it performed at various buildings. HPD requires its vendors to obtain such permits in order to be paid for their work. DOI's investigation revealed that the permit numbers on the supposed DOB permits that PEMBERTON submitted belonged to previously-issued permits for other sites. DOI found that PEMBERTON falsely altered and submitted permits for HPD electrical contracts totaling over \$17,000. HPD paid \$6,460 to NORWAY ELECTRIC before discovering that the permits were improper. The investigation is continuing.

PEMBERTON's arrest followed HPD's revocation of NORWAY ELECTRIC's "pre-qualified" status and the inclusion of a "caution" notice in Vendex, the citywide database of contractors who conduct business with New York City agencies.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's office of the Inspector General for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, including Assistant Inspector General Joseph Medina and Assistant Supervisor Afzal Sherali. The office of the Manhattan District Attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, is prosecuting the case against Pemberton.

Criminal complaints are accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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