



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER HPD INSPECTOR WHO FORGED DOCTOR'S NOTES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) announced today the felony arrest of RADAMES ORTIZ, a former employee of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) for allegedly submitting four forged medical notes to excuse his absences from work.

ORTIZ, 41, of the Bronx, has been charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "It is a crime to knowingly submit fake documentation to justify sick leave. Any employee foolish enough to use a forged doctor's note risks not only the loss of his or her City job and benefits, but also prosecution and possibly prison."

ORTIZ had been an inspector in HPD's Division of Code Enforcement, receiving an annual salary of \$43,326, from July 2000 to September 2005, when he was terminated for being absent without leave. Prior to his termination, on four dates between December 2002 and January 2003, ORTIZ submitted medical notes to HPD, signed by his physician and stating that ORTIZ was unable to work on the days that he was absent from work due to medical reasons. As a result, ORTIZ was granted three and a half days of paid sick leave, totaling \$800. DOI's investigation determined that the notes had been altered and that ORTIZ was not at the doctor's office on the specific dates reflected in the notes. According to the criminal complaint, the notes were duplicates of a note previously issued by the doctor to ORTIZ and that the dates had been altered without the doctor's permission or knowledge.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan and members of his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's office of the Inspector General for the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and NYPD detectives assigned to the DOI Investigative Squad. The office of the Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will prosecute the case against Ortiz.

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