



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #64-2007  
[www.nyc.gov/doi](http://www.nyc.gov/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS FORMER CITY EMPLOYEE FOR ALLEGEDLY FILING A  
FALSE LOST-CHECK CLAIM TO OBTAIN FAST CASH**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of LEON BROWNE (BROWNE), a former employee with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), for allegedly falsely reporting that he did not receive a City replacement payroll check in order to obtain a second check for the same amount.

BROWNE, 31, of the Bronx, has been arrested for Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted he faces up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Filing a false lost-check claim with the City is not the way to make extra money. As these allegations show, illegal fast-cash schemes can lead to arrest and possible prison time."

DOI's investigation found that BROWNE filed a complaint with the City's Office of Payroll Administration (OPA) in which he falsely claimed that he had not received a December 14, 2005 replacement paycheck from DPR for \$520.19. He also claimed he had not endorsed the check or received any money from it. Based on the complaint filed with OPA, BROWNE was given another check for the same amount, which he cashed. DOI determined that BROWNE also cashed the original replacement check that he claimed he did not receive. In total, BROWNE received checks worth \$1,040.38 but was not entitled to \$520.19 of it. The City did not lose any money in this incident because the check was stopped and the bank never paid the check-cashing establishment where BROWNE allegedly cashed the check.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked OPA Executive Director Joel Bondy and his staff for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General's Office for OPA, specifically Associate Commissioner Robert Joyce, Inspector General Gia Morris, First Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, and Confidential Investigator Kristin Reilly.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Victoria Phillips.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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 DOI at 212-825-5959.**