



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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**DOI ARRESTS MAN FOR POSSESSING AND CASHING FORGED CITY CHECK VALUED AT \$1,316**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Queens man on charges of cashing an altered check purportedly issued to him by the New York City Department of Finance ("DOF"). DOI's investigation began when it was notified by DOF that a landlord had not received a rent subsidy check as part of a social service program that assists individuals in obtaining housing. The case is being prosecuted by the office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

CARLOS PRINCE, 51, of Richmond Hills in Queens, N.Y., has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Cashing a forged City check is a blatant theft that will result in arrest and prosecution."

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation determined that in December 2009 at a Queens check cashing establishment PRINCE endorsed and cashed a City-issued check for \$1,316 that was purportedly made out to him. City records showed the City-issued check was not in fact issued to PRINCE, who did not have permission or authority to possess or cash the check. DOI's investigation further found that the defendant was not expecting money from the City and that he reportedly received the check from another person with whom he shared the proceeds.

The City has security features in place to identify and stop payment on forged City checks and, as a result, the City did not lose any money due to this scheme.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF Commissioner David Frankel, DHS Commissioner Seth Diamond, and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and their staffs for their assistance with this investigation.

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

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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