



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS SANITATION WORKER FOR FORGERY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) worker MATTHEW SILBERZWEIG, a.k.a. "RONALD KONING," for allegedly forging and submitting a letter, on DSNY stationery, to the New York City Sheriff's Office so that he could bid on vehicles sold at public auctions.

SILBERZWEIG, 37, of Elmont New York, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison. SILBERZWEIG, earning a base salary of \$46,316 and assigned to DSNY's Manhattan 10 garage, has been suspended.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Forging a document to deceive a public agency is a crime, which should be obvious to everyone, particularly every City employee. Yet, DOI has arrested a number of City employees this past month for submitting various kinds of phony documents to City agencies. These arrests should remind all City employees that the risks of such foolish conduct include not only loss of employment but also arrest, criminal prosecution, and possibly jail."

DOI began an investigation after the City Sheriff's Office reported that on December 18, 2001, SILBERZWEIG, using the name, "RONALD KONING," submitted a letter to that office stating that he is not a DSNY employee. In response to a Sheriff's Office supervisor's telling SILBERZWEIG that someone had raised the question of whether SILBERZWEIG, as a DSNY employee, should have been precluded from bidding on vehicles at the City Sheriff's auctions, SILBERZWEIG denied that he was a current City employee. The Sheriff's Office then asked SILBERZWEIG for documentation.

The investigation revealed that SILBERZWEIG had solicited a tenant living in his Elmont, New York house to assist him in creating a letter on DSNY stationery stating, "Ronald Koning is not currently employed and does not hold any position or have any official capacity within the Sanitation Department, City of New York." SILBERZWEIG, using the name "RONALD KONING," then presented the forged, notarized, letter to the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DSNY Commissioner John Doherty and his staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DSNY, particularly Acting Deputy Inspector General Yves Desire, Special Investigators Thomas Spirakis and Alan Lefkof, and Confidential Investigator Charles Busch. The case will be prosecuted by the Office of Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen M. Rice.

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

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple.*  
*To report someone ripping off the City, call 212-825-5959.*