



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
FOR ALLEGEDLY CASHING ONE COUNTERFEIT CITY CHECK AND ATTEMPTING TO CASH
A SECOND COUNTERFEIT CITY CHECK A WEEK LATER**
--Checks were valued at a total of \$2,346.80--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the arrest of CRAIG FORD (FORD), a former employee of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), for allegedly cashing a counterfeit City check in the amount of \$1,021 at a check cashing establishment in Queens on September 29, 2007, and then returning and attempting to cash a second counterfeit City check in the amount of \$1,325.80 on October 6, 2007.

FORD, 22, of Queens, was arrested on Monday, October 15, 2007 and was charged with two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the First Degree, which are class C felonies; six counts of Identity Theft in the Second Degree, which are class E felonies; one count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony; one count of Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor; and two counts of Unlawful Possession of Personal Identification Information in the Third Degree, which are class A misdemeanors. If convicted, he faces up to 15 years in prison.

FORD was a job training participant with DPR and worked from October 2006 to March 2007.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Trying to steal from the City's coffers means only that you risk arrest and possible prison time. DOI will continue to vigilantly pursue these types of crimes to protect the City's and taxpayers' money."

FORD's arrest is part of an ongoing DOI initiative to crack down on the counterfeiting of City checks. In November 2006, two individuals were arrested and charged with Grand Larceny after DOI determined they had cashed numerous counterfeit City checks. One of those individuals, DARREN PERRY, pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and was sentenced in May 2007 to a term of 2½ to 5 years in prison. The other individual, FRANZ ROBINSON, pleaded guilty to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and was sentenced in June 2007 to a term of 1½ to 3 years in prison.

To combat the counterfeiting of City checks, the City has security features in place to identify and stop payment on altered or counterfeit City checks. This ensures the City does not suffer a loss due to this type of illegal conduct. The City did not, in fact, lose any money as a result of this scheme, although the check cashing establishment where the counterfeit check was cashed did suffer a loss.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Office of Payroll Administration (OPA) Executive Director Joel Bondy and his staff for their assistance in the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the check cashing establishment for its assistance and cooperation during this 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 David Lee.

The Public Integrity Unit at the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case against FORD.

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.**