



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS EMPLOYEE OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FOR  
ALLEGEDLY SUBMITTING ABOUT 22 FRAUDULENT MEDICAL NOTES**  
**--A DOI investigation found the notes allegedly covered at least 20 sick days and the  
individual received in excess of \$3,000 he was not entitled to--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) announced the arrest of MICHAEL BELLACH, a Sewage Treatment Worker (STW) employed by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), for allegedly submitting about 22 fraudulent doctors' notes to the DEP to excuse his absences from work between July 1999 and September 2003.

BELLACH, 50, of Port Reading, New Jersey, was charged Monday, October 15, 2007, with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, which are each class D felonies. In addition, he was charged with Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, and Defrauding the Government, which are each class E felonies. BELLACH was also charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Official Misconduct, which are both class A misdemeanors. If convicted, BELLACH faces up to seven years in prison.

BELLACH began working at the DEP in 1992 and earns an annual salary of approximately \$46,700.

According to the criminal complaint, between July 1999 and September 2003 BELLACH submitted about 22 fraudulent doctors' notes that were written on prescription note pads from a pediatrics' group and a hospital. According to the criminal complaint, BELLACH was not treated at the pediatrics group nor at the hospital; the handwriting on each of the submitted notes appeared to be similar and the notes submitted had been forged.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This arrest is one of many over the past year in which individuals have been accused of trying to scam the City's sick leave system to earn some extra cash illegally. As these allegations show, DOI investigators will vigilantly pursue those who try and cheat the sick leave system for their own gain."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and her staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DEP. Assistant District Attorney James Liander from the Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

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.**