



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #72-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008**

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

**DOI ARRESTS CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON CHARGES OF
BRINGING AN UNLICENSED, LOADED FIREARM TO WORK**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of ADRIAN BEST, an Investigator with the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), who was charged late Friday with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a class C felony; Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and Possession of Handcuffs, Thumbcuffs or Leg Irons, an administrative code violation. Conviction of a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and conviction of a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year incarceration. An individual found in violation of this section of the administrative code may face a punishment of up to 10 days incarceration.

DOI began its investigation late Thursday, July 24, 2008, after it was contacted by FDNY that BEST was allegedly bringing a firearm to work at FDNY headquarters in Brooklyn. Friday morning, when BEST arrived at work, he was approached by DOI investigators and FDNY Fire Marshals. The Fire Marshals are responsible for security at headquarters, located at 9 Metrotech Center.

According to the criminal complaint, in the lobby of Metrotech Center, investigators found a loaded, 9 mm pistol on BEST. In addition, investigators also found a set of handcuffs.

DOI's investigation found that BEST was carrying the firearm in a holster, was not authorized to be in possession of either item, and was not licensed to carry a gun.

BEST, 38, of Rosedale, Queens, works as a civilian FDNY employee with the Bureau of Candidate Investigations, conducting backgrounds on prospective employees. He has been employed with the FDNY since January 2006 and receives an annual salary of approximately \$37,100.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI investigators along with Fire Marshals acted swiftly to investigate and stop a City employee from entering the workplace with an illegal and loaded handgun. The charges against this defendant are serious, but the immediate response by investigators averted any potential danger. I commend the FDNY for contacting DOI about this security and safety breach."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and the FDNY Bureau of Fire Investigations for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Fire Department, with assistance from FDNY's Bureau of Fire Investigations. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

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

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.