



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

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**CONTACT: KEITH SCHWAM**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS LANDLORD FOR FORGING A CITY MARSHAL'S NOTICE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of LAWRENCE ROUSSEAU, a landlord, on charges of altering a City marshal's official eviction notice and mailing it to a tenant in Brooklyn with a letter warning, falsely, that if the tenant did not leave his apartment the City marshal would evict him that week. In fact, the City marshal had no knowledge of the supposedly scheduled eviction and no warrant from the New York City Civil Court – a prerequisite. When the tenant called the City marshal and faxed the altered notice, the marshal alerted DOI.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Forging a City marshal's notice to deceive or intimidate someone is a felony. Anyone foolish enough to resort to that illegal tactic faces arrest, criminal prosecution, and, if convicted, a possible prison term. The only time a City marshal will evict a tenant is after the New York City Civil Court has issued a warrant. And no one other than a City marshal may issue an official City marshal's notice of eviction."

LAWRENCE ROUSSEAU, 30, of Springfield Gardens, Queens, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies, and related crimes. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

In February 2006, City Marshal Danny M. Weinheim, of the Bronx, reported to DOI that one of his official eviction notices had been altered and issued to a residential tenant in Brooklyn. Weinheim learned of the forgery when the tenant called Weinheim's office to ask about an eviction that Weinheim knew nothing about. DOI's investigation revealed that ROUSSEAU had mailed an altered copy of one of Weinheim's official notices to a tenant who owed rent. The forged notice, on white paper, reads, in large, red, capital letters, "MARSHAL'S LEGAL POSSESSION," and "The landlord has legal possession of these premises pursuant to Warrant of Civil Court." It also contains Marshal Weinheim's name, title, office address, telephone number, and badge number. The forged document is an altered copy of a notice that Marshal Weinheim had posted on the door of a Manhattan office in 2005 after performing a Court-ordered eviction. Further investigation revealed that ROUSSEAU mailed the forged notice to the tenant with a copy of a letter he had previously left under the tenant's door. DOI investigators arrested ROUSSEAU yesterday.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked City Marshal Danny M. Weinheim and his staff for their assistance and cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, particularly Confidential Investigator Teresa Pinckney, Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright, and Special Investigator Laurence Scott, of DOI Technical Services. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*