



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS HPD EMPLOYEE FOR RECEIVING BRIBES
Charged with accepting \$90 cash in exchange for certified copies of building registrations

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) announced today the felony arrest of ANTHONY PALERMO, a clerical employee of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), for accepting and retaining two cash payments, of \$40 and \$50, from a DOI undercover investigator in exchange for providing the investigator with a total of five certified copies of building registrations that should have cost \$8 each – by check or money order payable to the City.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “City employees simply may not accept money or anything of value for themselves, other than their City salaries, for doing their jobs. This long-term HPD employee is charged with ignoring that well-known rule and so faces not only the potential loss of his City job and benefits but criminal prosecution and possibly jail.”

PALERMO, 46, of the Bronx, a 19-year HPD employee, salary \$38,252, is charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Official Misconduct, and Receiving Unlawful Gratuities. If convicted, PALERMO faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI initiated its investigation after receiving a complaint from HPD that PALERMO may have been accepting and retaining cash payments for certified copies of HPD records. HPD policy requires that employees accept only checks or money orders for such copies. On June 28 and 29, 2006, in HPD’s office at 100 Gold Street, Manhattan, PALERMO accepted and pocketed cash payments for certified copies of building registrations, according to the criminal complaint.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s office of the Inspector General for HPD, including Inspector General Joseph P. Piazza, Esq., and Assistant Inspector General Joseph Medina. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

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

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