



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS CITY PAYROLL CLERK ON CHARGES OF FALSIFYING RECORDS
IN AN ATTEMPT TO STEAL \$1,548 IN CITY FUNDS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of ANTHONY MURDAUGH, a Clerical Aide with the City Office of Payroll Administration ("OPA"), on charges that he falsified OPA records in an attempt to divert \$1,548 in OPA checks to himself and another individual. The checks should have been issued to a City employee who was owed a refund.

MURDAUGH, 39, of Queens, was arrested on Tuesday, August 19, 2008, and has been charged with two counts of Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, a class D felony, and one count each of Official Misconduct and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, both class A misdemeanors. Conviction of a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and conviction of a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "A City employee who was supposed to reunite other City employees with their money instead is charged with abusing his position to attempt to take that money for himself. The good news is that thanks to an alert OPA supervisor, DOI's quick response, and the support of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, the abuse was immediately halted, no money was lost, and appropriate action was taken. All City employees know that theft is wrong, and they should know that it will be dealt with swiftly and sternly."

MURDAUGH, who began working at OPA in January 2005, processed reimbursements for City employees. He was paid an hourly wage of \$14.47 and last year received a salary of approximately \$25,390. He was suspended from his position on August 13, 2008.

DOI's investigation began last week after OPA reported and retained a suspicious reimbursement check made out to MURDAUGH. According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation revealed that MURDAUGH had submitted two false payroll adjustment forms requesting that OPA issue two refund checks, each in the amount of \$774.44, to himself and another individual, neither of whom was entitled to those funds. OPA stopped the processing of both checks. DOI's investigation found that the money should have gone to a City employee whose wages had been garnished erroneously for a defaulted student loan. But rather than processing a refund for that employee, MURDAUGH falsified the OPA payroll adjustment forms to indicate that he and another individual, who was not even a City employee, were entitled to the refunds.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked OPA's Executive Director Joel Bondy and members of his staff for their assistance in the investigation, which was conducted by DOI's Inspector General's office for OPA.

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Gary Snitow of the Special Prosecutions Bureau.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.**