



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 81-2005
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2005**

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS PARKS DEPARTMENT SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT COORDINATOR FOR STEALING
MONEY ORDERS FROM JOB APPLICANTS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of DINA DINI for allegedly stealing 10 or more money orders worth more than a total of \$1000 from prospective seasonal employees of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR).

DINI, 36, of Staten Island, has been charged with Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, she faces up to four years in prison.

An Employment Coordinator at DPR from 2001 until summer 2005, DINI processed numerous prospective applicants for summer seasonal positions in Staten Island during DPR's 2004 and 2005 seasonal hiring period. DINI had the employees fill out paperwork and, in accordance with DPR rules, requested applicants to submit a \$99 money order to pay for fingerprinting and a background check. However, DINI asked prospective employees to leave the payee section on the money order blank; and many applicants complied. DINI allegedly deposited some of these money orders into her savings account and cashed others at check cashing establishments. In several instances, DINI requested two money orders from applicants so that she could use the money orders either to replace ones she allegedly had stolen from other applicants.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Robbing Peter to pay Paul is no way to do business, especially when doing so on behalf of the City. All City employees and those applying for jobs with the City should know that DOI will not tolerate this misconduct and will make every effort to ensure that these cases are investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DPR Commissioner Adrian Benepe and his staff for reporting this matter to DOI and for their assistance. This investigation was conducted by Assistant Commissioner Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Theresa Land-Latta, First Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo and Confidential Investigator Virginia Giunta. The Office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Rick J. Pasacreta, Chief Special Investigations Unit is handling the prosecution.

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

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.***