



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
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[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

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**DOI ARRESTS EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN EMPLOYED BY A PRIVATE HOSPITAL IN BROOKLYN  
ON CHARGES OF PLACING A FALSE 911 CALL WHILE ON DUTY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest today of an Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") employed by a Brooklyn hospital on charges of placing a fake 911 call while on duty regarding an attempted suicide in Staten Island on September 7, 2009. The office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan Jr. is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Placing a fake 911 call needlessly taxes the City's already busy emergency response system and makes responders unavailable to assist those truly in need. Even more mind-boggling in this case is that an individual entrusted with responding to emergencies is charged with concocting one and pointlessly diverting responders."

DAWN GIACOBBE, 42, of Staten Island, was charged with Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to year's incarceration.

GIACOBBE is employed by Lutheran Medical Center, a private hospital in Brooklyn. The New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") has agreements with various private hospitals in the City to provide emergency medical ambulance services for the 911 response system, which includes approximately 3,000 EMTs and paramedics. As a result of these agreements, these employees fall under DOI's jurisdiction.

DOI began its investigation after it was notified by Richmond University Medical Center in Staten Island about a possible false 911 call it received.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that GIACOBBE placed a false 911 call at 5:50 a.m. on September 7, 2009 reporting a suicidal 30-year-old female had taken pills on Westervelt Avenue in Staten Island. Emergency responders arrived at the location and found no patient.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked supervisors at the private ambulance services in the City for their cooperation in the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan Jr. and his staff for prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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.*

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