



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #96-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF A LICENSED GENERAL VENDOR ON CHARGES
HE FALSIFIED HIS IDENTITY TO OBTAIN A LICENSE FROM THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of GEORGE PECK on charges of submitting false documents between 1990 and 2007 to the City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") saying that he was his brother, a disabled military veteran, in order to obtain, renew and maintain a Disabled Veteran General Vendor's license. According to the criminal complaint, the license is reserved for individuals who served in the military and the DOI investigation found that PECK has never been in the military.

PECK, 63, of Flushing, Queens, was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony. Conviction of a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and conviction of a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Submitting false information to the City to obtain a vending license is a crime that, as this arrest shows, will result in prosecution. These charges depict a disgraceful act. Individuals who falsely claim military service to obtain a vendor's license deplete the limited number available to those who truly served their country."

DCA issues business-operating licenses to more than 60,000 businesses in 55 different categories, including general vendors. Disabled veterans with the special licenses are permitted to vend anywhere in the City, including midtown Manhattan.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and members of his staff for their assistance in this investigation.

DOI Deputy Inspector General Mary Kozlow and members of her staff, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vincent Green, conducted this investigation

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Lucrece Francois Dubrovsky, under the supervision of Tom Wornom, Chief 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.