



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS LANDLORD'S HUSBAND FOR
TAPING FORGED MARSHAL'S NOTICES TO TENANTS' DOORS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that DOI detectives arrested the husband of a Staten Island landlord on charges that he taped forged eviction notices supposedly issued by a City marshal to the doors of three individuals who were renting rooms in a house his wife owns.

PAUL CILIENTO, 76, of Port Richmond, Staten Island, New York, was charged with three counts each of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class "D" felony, and Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class "A" misdemeanor. If convicted of the top charge, he faces up to seven years in prison. The case is being prosecuted by the office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Using a forged City marshal's notice to deceive or intimidate anyone is a crime. The lawful way to recover rented property is to bring the matter to court, not to bypass the legally required steps and tape a fabricated eviction notice to someone's door."

According to the criminal complaint, on or about June 3, 2008, CILIENTO was observed taping forged City marshals' notices to the doors of three residents of the second floor of a house at 271 Nicholas Avenue, in the Port Richmond section of Staten Island. Each notice named a different resident and displayed a supposed Civil Court index number and the name, badge number, office address, and telephone number of City Marshal Steven Powell supposedly stating that the landlord had "legal possession" of the premises under a Civil Court warrant. That same day, Marshal Powell notified DOI, immediately after the forged notices were brought to his attention. DOI's investigation revealed that the City marshal had not issued the notices and had no warrant for the premises and that no case against the three residents had been filed in the Civil Court.

Department of Buildings records indicate that at the time of the charged use of the forged marshals' notices, 271 Nicholas Avenue was in violation of the Building Code for among other things, occupancy by more than the legally approved number of families, and that the owner paid at least \$5,300 in fines.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked City Marshal Steven Powell of Staten Island for his assistance.

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The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals and Investigative Squad, including Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright and Confidential Inspector Teresa Pinckney. The office of the Richmond County District Attorney is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Anna Berent, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Tuesday Muller-Mondi.

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.**