



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CHILD PROTECTIVE SPECIALIST WITH THE CITY ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
CHARGED WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest today of a City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") Child Protective Specialist ("CPS") on charges of illegally obtaining more than \$30,000 in Workers' Compensation benefits. DOI's investigation was prompted by allegations that the defendant, while on Workers' Compensation leave, was working for a private company as a security guard, reported to DOI by ACS. The office of Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is prosecuting this case.

TAURINA CARPENTER, 55, of Brooklyn, N.Y. is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Perjury in the First Degree, which are class D felonies; and Penalties for Fraudulent Practices, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, which are class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison. CARPENTER was arraigned today and released on her own recognizance. Her next court date is scheduled for April 1, 2025.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This City employee lied under oath to collect tens of thousands of dollars in workers' compensation funds that she was not entitled to, according to the charges. Workers' compensation is a resource for workers who suffer on-the-job injuries and can't work, and we will hold accountable employees who steal these benefits through fraud. I thank ACS for reporting these allegations to DOI and for its cooperation in this investigation, and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office for its partnership on this important case."

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, "Stealing public benefits that are subsidized by taxpayers is a serious crime that impacts all of us. The defendant in this case allegedly received workers' compensation benefits she was not entitled to and lied when directly questioned about working another job. I thank DOI for exposing this alleged misconduct and am committed to continue working with all of our partners to root out public corruption."

According to the criminal complaint, on or about December 8, 2022, CARPENTER submitted a claim to the New York State Workers Compensation Board ("WCB") alleging that she was injured while inside her ACS work location at 1274 Bedford Avenue in Brooklyn. The investigation found that on or about January 5, 2023, an ACS supervisor's/agency report was filed with the WCB indicating that the employee had not returned to work. An audio recording of a WCB hearing on April 20, 2023, showed that the defendant testified under oath and under direct questioning indicated she was not working due to her injuries. During a subsequent WCB hearing on November 1, 2023, according to an audio recording, the defendant again testified under oath and indicated in response to direct questioning that she had not worked

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for any other employers while out on workers compensation but did get paid for referrals and for selling personal property on-line. The defendant was asked if she had started working for any other firm, and she replied, "No." The investigation found that between January 1, 2022, through May 9, 2024, the defendant was employed by Allied Universal as a security guard and was paid approximately \$149,789 between January 1, 2022, through October 12, 2023. The investigation determined that between May 24, 2023, and November 10, 2023, the defendant collected approximately \$30,364.40 in workers' compensation funds she was not entitled to receive.

Carpenter returned to active duty at ACS in December 2023; she has been employed at ACS since February 2019 and is currently receiving an annual salary of approximately \$67,899.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and his staff for their partnership on this investigation: Deputy Chief Assistant District Attorney Laura Dilimetin of the District Attorney's Early Case Assessment Bureau assisted the investigation, and Public Integrity Deputy Bureau Chief Adam Libove is prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Public Integrity Bureau Chief Laura Neubauer, Deputy Chief of Investigations Michel Spanakos, and Chief of Investigations Patricia McNeill.

DOI Commissioner Strauber also thanked ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser and his staff for their cooperation in this investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Natalia Yip of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS and supervised by Deputy Inspector General Harlyn Griffenberg, Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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 and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.*

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