



**The City of New York
Department of Investigation**

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DOI ARRESTS 5 INDIVIDUALS IN SWEEP OF FRAUDULENT PARKING PERMITS
-Counterfeited permits provided free parking-

Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrests of five individuals, including four employees of the Department of Homeless Services (DHS), and a security officer under contract at the Human Resources Administration (HRA) for illegally using fraudulent parking permits.

All five defendants will be charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a D felony. If convicted, they face up to seven years in jail. The investigation is continuing and more charges may be filed.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint that employees who were not normally issued parking permits displayed Department of Transportation Business Parking Permits on the dashboards of their cars. DOI conducted sweeps of cars parked at a DHS maintenance facility at 260 Eleventh Avenue and a DHS Men's Homeless Shelter at 430 East 30th Street, both in Manhattan, said Commissioner Gill Hearn.

Investigators determined that Louis Rivera, a DHS Community Assistant, and Samuel Ogunleye, a Tri-Star Security Guard, used a counterfeited DOT Business Parking Permits to illegally obtain free parking for their own vehicles while they were assigned to the Eleventh Avenue maintenance facility. The investigation revealed that Rivera used an authentic DOT parking permit issued to DHS as a model to create the counterfeit permit, which featured the license plate number for his privately owned car but retained the original permit's serial number. Ogunleye's counterfeit permit was similar: It featured the same permit serial number but contained his own car's license plate number. Both fake permits had expired in December 2001 and lacked the colored logos featured on legitimate permits. During the sweep, investigators also found that Rivera illegally possessed a pair of handcuffs and a business card that falsely purported that he was a NYPD "Special" Officer.

While conducting its review at the DHS Men's Homeless Shelter, DOI investigators discovered that Anna M. Camareno, Special Officer; Derric C. James, Special Officer; and George L. Williams, Motor Vehicle Operator, were using fraudulent NYPD Restricted Parking Permits that were designed to look like authentic parking permits from the 13th and 9th Precincts. The fake permit featured misspellings.

"The creation and use of fake parking permits by these City employees is a manipulation of the system and causes congestion and difficulty," said Commissioner Gill Hearn.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Department of Homeless Services Commissioner Linda Gibbs, and members of her staff, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Gerard Hoey, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Homeless Services and the Human Resources Administration, Deputy Inspector General Joseph Caputo, and Special Investigator Celestino J. Martinez with assistance from Assistant Inspector General Jose Ramos and Confidential Investigator Sharon Young.

The office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will prosecute these cases.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DEFENDANT INFORMATION:

Anna M. Camareno, 46, of the Bronx.

Derric C. James, 29, of Brooklyn.

George L. Williams, 45, of Jamaica, Queens.

Samuel Ogunleye, 40, of Brooklyn.

Louis A. Rivera, 41, of Flushing. In addition to the aforementioned charge, Rivera will be charged with Forgery in the 2nd Degree, a Class D Felony.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.

To make a complaint about someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.