



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS SCOFFLAW FOR EVIDENCE TAMPERING
Brooklyn Car Owner Charged with Falsifying Evidence to Quash Tickets

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of Frantz Santer, a Parking Violations Operations (PVO) scofflaw charged with knowingly offering false evidence - altered copies of nine parking summonses - to trick PVO's administrative law judges (ALJs) into dismissing them and writing off the fines. DOI detectives arrested Santer yesterday in Manhattan.

Santer, a 35-year-old Brooklyn resident, has been charged with nine counts of each of the following crimes: Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, and Tampering with Physical Evidence, both class E felonies. If convicted, Santer faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "The charges portray a deliberate scheme to pervert the legal process that enables people to challenge tickets that they believe are wrong. When DOI learns of such fraud against the City, we will, as here, investigate, arrest, and seek criminal prosecution of those responsible." The Commissioner added that the investigation is continuing.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Raymond P. Martinez, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and Martha E. Stark, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Finance, and members of their staffs, for their assistance in the investigation.

DMV Commissioner Raymond P. Martinez said, "I applaud the coordinated efforts of State and local law enforcement in combating the crime of fraud and forgery. Our DMV investigators, who are trained in working with fraudulent documents, work closely with their colleagues in law enforcement, and the arrest today shows that our efforts to combat this type of crime are working."

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that, from February through November 2002, at the PVO Business Center at 66 John Street in lower Manhattan, Santer testified in eight hearings that his parking tickets were defective, because, for example, they lacked necessary information, such as the distance between his parked car and a fire hydrant. As proof, Santer presented supposed copies of the tickets to the ALJs, who dismissed the violations, Commissioner Gill Hearn said, but comparison of Santer's copies with PVO's revealed that Santer's copies had

been altered to create the phony defects. Santer, who registered cars and received tickets under several different names, owes PVO more than \$8,800 in fines, according to Commissioner Gill Hearn.

The investigation was conducted by investigators in DOI's Bureau of City Marshals and its NYPD Detective Squad, particularly, Assistant Inspector General Percy Corcoran, Detective Eddie Lebron, and Confidential Investigators Teresa Pinckney and Pauline Ho, with the assistance of DMV Investigators Tina Poetzsch and Jason Brimhall, and Special Agent Harry Maldonado of the U.S. Social Security Administration.

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Berger of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Leroy Frazer and Deputy Bureau Chief Tom Wornom.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations; defendants are presumed innocent unless convicted in court.

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