



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release 010-2004
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2003

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS SANITATION AGENT TAKING BRIBES INSTEAD OF ISSUING SUMMONSES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of Sanitation Enforcement Agent MONICA FERRARA for soliciting and accepting approximately \$290 worth of bribes to not issue Sanitation summonses to Staten Island businesses.

FERRARA, 30, of Staten Island, has been charged with seven counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and eight counts of Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree. FERRARA faces up to seven years in prison. A DOS employee since October 2002, FERRARA resigned today when she was informed of her impending arrest.

“FERRARA was supposed to enforce the law, not break it,” said Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, “She took advantage of innocent and unsuspecting Staten Island citizens for her own personal financial gain. New Yorkers should take comfort in knowing that misconduct by City employees will be addressed and eliminated.”

DOI began its investigation after receiving many numerous complaints alleging FERRARA had demanded money in exchange for not issuing summonses for violations such as dirty sidewalks or improper recycling. Investigators determined FERRARA demanded up to \$100 on 8 occasions from a variety of business owners, managers and employees who worked at delis, gas stations and strip malls on Staten Island. In exchange for not writing a total of seven summonses, which have a maximum penalty of \$350, FERRARA received on average about \$40-\$50, and a total of about \$290.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Department of Sanitation, as well as the civilian complainants, who reported the alleged corruption. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked DOS for the agency’s cooperation and assistance with this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Assistant Commissioner Robert Roach, Inspector General Julia Davis and Deputy Inspector General Frank Floridaia. The office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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 make complaints about someone ripping off the City, call DOI at 212-825-5959.