



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER DCA EMPLOYEE

– Stole more than \$5,800 from the City –

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of HERBERT WHACK for stealing more than \$5,800 from the City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA).

WHACK, 19, of Brooklyn has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

Hired in October 2002, WHACK allegedly stole about 36 money orders that restaurant owners had submitted to pay for the processing of their restaurant licenses with the City. The money orders ranged in value from \$75 to \$305. As part of his scheme, WHACK gave the restaurant owners receipts for their payment, however he never saved the information in the DCA computer system, thus wiping out any record of the payment. WHACK then cashed the money orders, which were made out to the City, at a candy store in the lobby of the DCA headquarters where he worked.

DOI's investigation began when a worker with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene reported that DOHMH could not reconcile payment receipts issued to restaurant owners with the DCA computer records and therefore couldn't issue licenses to the restaurant owners. WHACK was terminated from his job in January 2004 when his alleged misconduct was discovered.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DCA Commissioner Gretchen Dykstra for her cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Assistant Commissioner Vincent E. Greene, Deputy Inspector General Alberta E. Ancrum, Assistant Inspector General Bradley Howard, Chief Investigator Daniel Lau and Confidential Investigator Merrybet Tavarez. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will handle the case and Assistant District Attorney Douglas Kaufman will prosecute.

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

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.