



The City of New York
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DOI STATEMENT ON CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH FEDERAL IDENTITY THEFT

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on the arrest of a Community Associate with the City Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) on charges of creating false Social Security Administration (“SSA”) letters and selling them to another individual whom the defendant believed was using them to obtain other identification documents, such as drivers’ licenses, United States passports, and birth certificates. The investigation found that the defendant created the false identity documents on at least 10 occasions in 2008 on her home computer and printed them on her City work station at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center in Manhattan. Today’s arrest followed an indictment obtained by the office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and DOI worked with the United States Department of State’s Diplomatic Security Service on the investigation.

ADRIENNE TONEY, 44, of Manhattan, was charged with the federal offenses of Identity Fraud in Connection with False Identification Documents and Aggravated Identity Theft. Upon conviction, these federal crimes are punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Identity theft is a no-win proposition for all involved, including anyone who fabricates fraudulent documents. This arrest stands as a warning to any City employee who would use his or her work devices, including computers, to commit crimes: You risk arrest, prosecution, possible imprisonment, and your future with the City. In fact, two former City employees previously charged in this identity theft investigation are now serving prison sentences. DOI will continue to work with its federal partners to expose any attack on an individual’s identity.”

TONEY was hired as a Job Training Participant in June 2006, under DPR’s Parks Opportunity Program that was established to encourage future employment through the development of basic skills, and was retained by DPR where she conducted classes at the Jackie Robinson Recreation Center on the use of desktop computers. TONEY receives an annual salary of approximately \$32,320.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Christopher Paul, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Office of the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. Department of State; and DPR Commissioner Adrian Benepe, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

DOI’s Office of Inspector General for DPR investigated the case.

Prosecution of the case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Carrie Cohen of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is 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.

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