



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

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 005-2003  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 21, 2003

**CONTACT:** EMILY GEST  
(212) 825-5931

**CITY EMPLOYEE STEALS QUESTIONS FROM MASTER ELECTRICIAN EXAM**  
*-Falsified documents to gain access into Sabbath Observer Exam-*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of Nicholas Martinez, a Health and Hospitals Corporation electrician, for compromising the Friday, April 20, 2001, Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) Sabbath Observer exam for Master Electrician License, (exam no.0810).

Martinez, 41, was arrested this morning and charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument in the First Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI began its investigation in April 2001 after DCAS reported its April 20, 2001 Sabbath Observer exam for Master Electrician had been compromised, said Gill Hearn. A proctor suspected that Martinez had removed several pages of questions from the test booklet during the exam on Friday April 20, 2001 and replaced them with pages of questions from previous civil service and licensing exams administered by DCAS. After the exam monitor discovered Martinez's ruse, DCAS canceled the main exam on Saturday, April 21, 2001.

DOI investigators determined that Martinez submitted a falsified document to gain access into the April 20, 2001 Sabbath Observer Master Electrician License exam. He provided DCAS with a falsified letter from a Pastor of a Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which contained a forged signature of the Pastor. He needed the letter because DCAS requires exam candidates to provide documentation to support their request for admission into the Sabbath Observer exam.

Martinez had been arrested on January 9, 2002 for Petit Larceny and prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, for stealing Westchester County exams, which he sold to exam candidates.

This investigation was conducted by Robert Joyce, DOI's Inspector General for DCAS, and members of his staff, including, Assistant Inspector General Mary Kozlow, Investigators Christie Mingoia, Christine Carl, and Roberto Cepeda.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DCAS Commissioner Martha Hirst and the members of her staff for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation. She also thanked the Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau for prosecuting the case. Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Judy Salwen is handling the matter, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Leroy Frazer, of the DA's Special Prosecutions Bureau.

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

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To make complaints about someone ripping off the city,  
call DOI at 212-825-5959.*

