



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**TWO NYCHA EMPLOYEES DEPOSIT COUNTERFEIT CHECKS
AT THE MUNICIPAL CREDIT UNION**

Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the arrests of Amos Leslie, a Community Service Aide at the New York City Housing Authority's Ravenswood Houses in Queens, and Marlene Webb, a Community Assistant at NYCHA's Latimer Gardens Houses, also in Queens. They tried to cash counterfeit checks from a theater company and a financial securities firm.

Leslie, 40, who is also a NYCHA tenant at Queensbridge South Houses in Long Island City, has been an employee of NYCHA since May 1998. He has been charged with one count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D felony, and one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony.

Webb, 37, of Jamaica, Queens, has been a NYCHA employee since June 1996. She has been charged with acting in concert with Leslie to commit Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D Felony, and Attempted Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class E Felony.

If convicted, they face a maximum sentence of 7 years for each count of the D Felony and a maximum sentence of 4 years for each count of the E Felony. If convicted, Leslie's status as a NYCHA tenant could be revoked.

DOI began its investigation after the Municipal Credit Union ("MCU") said two NYCHA employees had deposited counterfeit checks worth about \$4,800 into their MCU accounts, said Commissioner Gill Hearn. Investigators determined that counterfeit checks came from a financial firm and a theater company. Both companies stated the checks, which had been made payable to either Leslie or Webb, were not from their accounts.

Investigators found that after Leslie deposited the check from the financial firm, he was able to withdraw nearly all of the money. Although Webb deposited the check from the theater company into her account, she was unable to withdraw funds because the check was immediately returned to MCU and marked "counterfeit."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Municipal Credit Union for its cooperation and assistance in the investigation. The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General, Steven A. Pasichow, and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Irene Serrapica and Confidential Investigator April Mastrangelo.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard Brown is handling the cases. Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke, under the supervision of Brian Mich of the DA's Economic and Environmental Crimes Bureau, will prosecute. 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.