



Department of Investigation *Press Releases*

DOI Arrests Board Of ED Employee In \$11,000 Welfare Theft

Release #018-2000

TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2000-- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of PATRICIA JOHNSON, a/k/a PATRICIA JULIEN, for unlawfully receiving more than \$11,000 in public assistance benefits while also working full-time for the New York City Board of Education (BOE).

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, the DOI investigation began after the BOE's Office of Special Investigations referred a complaint alleging that JOHNSON was illegally getting welfare benefits. The investigation determined that JOHNSON, from October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1999, was employed full-time as a Family Assistant at the Archway Welcome Center in Public School #6 in Brooklyn, earning a salary of \$11.21 per hour, and also collecting welfare benefits from the Human Resources Administration's (HRA) Linden Job Center in Brooklyn, using her maiden name, JULIEN. The welcome center is a BOE-sponsored social services program offering information and referrals for GEDs, daycare, and English language instruction.

Records disclosed that JOHNSON, at four recertification interviews conducted at the job center between November 10, 1997, and November 12, 1998, improperly failed to disclose her BOE employment and income to HRA, and submitted recertification documents falsely claiming that she was unemployed. As a result, JOHNSON allegedly received a total of \$11,610.29 in fraudulent welfare benefits.

JOHNSON, 45, of Brooklyn, who began receiving public assistance in 1988, was hired by the BOE on September 4, 1997. She has been suspended from her position without pay. In addition, her welfare case has been closed by HRA and her benefits terminated.

JOHNSON was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his appreciation to the BOE Office of Special Investigations for its assistance and cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by Deputy Inspector General Benjamin Defibaugh and Chief Investigator Emanuel Lane, under the supervision of Gerard Hoey, DOI's Inspector General for HRA.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Heather Benderson of the Welfare Fraud Unit is handling the matter under the supervision of Bureau Chief Bridget Fleming.