



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

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### **EMT ARRESTED FOR PATIENT THEFT** ***-- Stole \$1,000 Money Order From 911 Patient's Queens Apartment --***

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of LOUIS ARROYO, a New York City Fire Department Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), for taking a blank \$1,000 money order from the Queens apartment of a female patient who had called 911 for help, and then unlawfully cashing it at a nearby bank the next day.

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "Every day sick and injured New Yorkers put their lives and trust in the City's emergency medical personnel. For even one corrupt EMT to betray his sworn duty and his fellow professionals by looting the home of a vulnerable patient is offensive and inexcusable."

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, the investigation began last November, when the 41-year-old victim filed a theft complaint at the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct in Queens. The police referred the complaint to DOI.

The investigation disclosed that, on the afternoon of November 2, 2000, ARROYO and his partner, both assigned to Battalion 46 at Elmhurst Hospital in Queens, responded to a 911 dispatcher's report of an injured woman at a Grand Avenue apartment in Maspeth, Queens. The EMTs entered the apartment, and, while his partner administered medical aid to the patient, ARROYO allegedly entered her bedroom and took a blank \$1,000 Maspeth Federal Savings money order.

The investigation further disclosed that ARROYO, the following morning, went to a Maspeth Federal Savings bank branch near the victim's apartment, presented to a cashier the stolen \$1,000 money order, endorsed with his signature, and received \$1,000 in cash. The transaction was photographed by an automatic bank camera.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen and members of his staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

ARROYO, 45, of Astoria, Queens, has been employed as an EMT since 1987. He was immediately suspended without pay, and has been charged with Petit Larceny and Official Misconduct, both Class A misdemeanors. If convicted, he faces up to 1 year in jail.

The investigation was conducted by John McMahon, DOI's Acting Inspector General for the Fire Department, and members of his staff, including Confidential Investigator Jayme Naberezny.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Yvonne Creque, under the supervision of Integrity Bureau Chief James Liander, is handling the matter.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.