

## The City of New York Department of Investigation ROSE GILL HEARN COMMISSIONER

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## DOI STATEMENT ON THE PRISON SENTENCE OF A BROOKLYN MAN IN CREDIT CARD FRAUD SCHEME THAT TARGETED THE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement regarding the sentencing of NATHANIEL ROBINSON, 26, to two years in prison for unlawfully obtaining and using the credit card information of customers who faxed birth certificate purchase requests to the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH"). The stolen credit card numbers were used in attempts to purchase thousands of dollars in goods or services from various vendors. ROBINSON, who pleaded guilty to a federal charge of aggravated identity theft in October 2009, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Victor Marrero in U.S. District Court in Manhattan. The office of Preet Bharara, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's prison sentence sends the clear message that fraudsters who use the City as a conduit to steal credit card information will be brought to justice. The good news is that this scam was shut down and the investigation led the City Health Department to tighten its security measures to better protect customers' credit card information. DOI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York together are committed to attacking fraud and public corruption."

Two other defendants were arrested in this scheme. The case against Evelyne Miracle, 24, a former College Aide with DOHMH, is pending; and Jazzrea McRae, 22, pleaded guilty in November 2009 to credit card fraud conspiracy and is expected to be sentenced in March 2010. In addition to a two-year prison sentence, ROBINSON was also sentenced to one year of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$1,715 in restitution.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and DOHMH Commissioner, Dr. Thomas Farley, and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven quilty.

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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