



Department of Investigation *Press Releases*

East Harlem Man Arrested In \$21,000 Counterfeit City Check Scam

Release #025-2000

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of DAMION R. WILLIAMS for depositing 12 counterfeit checks, totaling \$21,403.32 and bearing the account number of the City's Office of Payroll Administration (OPA), into his personal bank accounts.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI commenced an investigation last September when OPA reported that bogus checks imprinted with an OPA account number had allegedly been tendered to Citibank for payment.

The investigation disclosed that 12 counterfeit checks, each made payable to WILLIAMS in the amount of \$1,783.61, had listed the payor of the checks as "Pratt Institute," but in fact bore the bank account number of a payroll account held by the City of New York at The Chase Manhattan Bank. The investigation further revealed that between September 4 and September 11, 1999, the 12 checks had been deposited at various Citibank branches in Brooklyn and Manhattan into two separate checking and money market accounts, both opened at Citibank in April 1999 in the name of DAMION R. WILLIAMS.

Commissioner Kuriansky noted that WILLIAMS was formerly employed by the Pratt Institute as a computer hardware maintenance specialist from April 1998 until his termination in July 1999.

WILLIAMS, 28, of 420 East 111th Street, in Manhattan, was charged in a federal complaint with one count of violating Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 513 (counterfeit or forged securities). If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Edwin A. Yowell, OPA Deputy Executive Director, and members of his staff, for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation, which is continuing, was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and OPA Inspector General Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Maureen A. Thomas, Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, Assistant Inspector General Joseph Medina, and Investigative Auditor Phillip Littrean.

The Office of United States Attorney for the Southern District Mary Jo White is prosecuting the case. Assistant United States Attorney Adam B. Siegel is handling the matter.