



**The City of New York  
Department of Investigation**

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

Release #017-2003  
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST**  
212-825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS BRONX WOMAN IN COUNTERFEIT CITY CHECK SCAM**  
*- Public Assistance Client cashed nine counterfeit welfare checks -*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the felony arrest of EVELYN MORALES for cashing nine counterfeit Human Resources Administration (HRA) public assistance checks totaling more than \$3,000 and attempting to cash two additional counterfeit public assistance checks.

MORALES, 40, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of up to seven years in prison.

DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint from a Bronx check cashier stating that a public assistance check Morales had cashed at their location had been returned by the HRA, who said it was counterfeit. DOI investigators determined that the check had been made payable to Morales and that she had used her own public assistance benefit card as identification when she cashed it.

While working with HRA's Check Reconciliation Unit, DOI investigators identified eight additional counterfeit public assistance checks that Morales had cashed at various establishments in the Bronx and submitted for payment to HRA. Investigators visited these businesses and determined Morales had failed in her attempt to negotiate two additional checks. All 11 checks were negotiated or attempted to be negotiated between January 7, 2002 and January 24, 2002. DOI determined that while Morales executed her counterfeit scam she did not receive public assistance. However, she had received public assistance before and after January 2002.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HRA Commissioner Verna Eggleston and the HRA Bureau of Reconciliation Unit for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation. The investigation was conducted by Gerard Hoey, DOI's Inspector General for HRA, and members of his staff, including Deputy Counsel Seth Gordon, Assistant Inspector General Margaret Shivers and Special Investigator Walter Hartman.

The Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Militano is handling the matter.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To make a complaint about someone ripping off the city, call 311 or call DOI directly at 212-825-5959.*