



Department of Investigation

Press Releases

3 Bronx Women Arrested In Counterfeit City Check Scam

Release #031-2000

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced the arrests on federal charges of 3 Bronx women -- CORDELIA MARTINEZ, SHANDA MATTEI, and ELVETTA FULTON -- for conspiring to negotiate 3 counterfeit City checks, totaling more than \$4,000 and bearing the account number of the City's Office of Payroll Administration (OPA).

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation in September when OPA reported that bogus checks imprinted with an OPA account number had been tendered to the Dime Savings Bank and a Bronx checkcashing outlet for payment.

The investigation disclosed that 2 counterfeit checks, each in the amount of \$1,825.07, listing the maker as Brujia Inc., a nonexistent company, and made payable to MARTINEZ, were deposited on September 20, 1999, into her personal bank accounts at the Dime Savings Bank in the Bronx, and that 1 counterfeit check, in the amount of \$604.47, listing the maker as Rite Aid Corporation and made payable to MATTEI, was cashed on November 3, 1999, at CLB Check Cashing Corporation in the Bronx.

The investigation also revealed that FULTON had allegedly supplied the 2 counterfeit checks to MARTINEZ after receiving them from DAMION R. WILLIAMS, who was arrested by DOI two weeks ago for depositing 12 counterfeit checks, totaling \$21,403.32 and bearing the account number of the City OPA, into his personal Citibank accounts. WILLIAMS also allegedly supplied 1 counterfeit check to MATTEI.

Commissioner Kuriansky noted that FULTON is employed as a secretary by the New York City Board of Education and works at a Bronx high school; MARTINEZ works as a psychic reader at her Bronx apartment; and MATTEI is employed as an unarmed security guard at a private apartment building in Manhattan.

MARTINEZ, 38, of 1595 East 174th Street, the Bronx, and FULTON, 30, of 3819 Barnes Avenue, the Bronx, were charged in a federal complaint with violating Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 371 (conspiracy), and MATTEI, 27, of 1530 Archer Avenue, the Bronx, was charged in a separate federal complaint with violating Title 18 U.S. Code, Section 513 (counterfeit or forged securities). If convicted, MATTEI faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine; MARTINEZ and FULTON face up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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

The investigation 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, Investigative Auditor Phillip Littrean, and Special Investigator Erskine Fleming.

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