



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

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Release #020-2003
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2003

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DOI ARRESTS MAN WHO STOLE \$43,000 FROM CITY

- Former Assistant Director of a Home Care Services Program Charged with Pilfering Program Funds -

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of Noel Earl Ewart, the former Assistant Director for Fiscal Operations at the Center for Independence of the Disabled in New York - Independent Living Services (CIDNY-ILS), for stealing \$43,498 from the City.

Ewart, 59, of Queens, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that DOI began its investigation after receiving a complaint from the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) which alleged Ewart had improperly issued a number of checks to himself in addition to his approved salary. HRA had contracted CIDNY-ILS, a not-for-profit, community-based organization, to provide home care and housekeeping services to New York City residents.

Between October 1999 and May 2002, Ewart paid himself 69 checks totaling \$43,498 that he described on CIDNY payment request forms as advances on his salary or for petty cash, according to Commissioner Gill Hearn. However, Ewart did not repay any of the salary advances and did not submit any vendor receipts to account for the petty cash advances. Ewart, who controlled exclusively the plates with signatures of the two required CIDNY Board members, placed the checks into a check signing machine so he could cash them without the knowledge or approval of the Board. He also solely controlled the checkbook, the petty cash fund and supervised the payroll operations. To prevent future wrongdoing, CIDNY-ILS has implemented many new control procedures including the elimination of the check signing machine so that all checks must be physically seen, reviewed and signed in their original form by the required Board members.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Mr. Ewart's conduct is not only in violation of the law, it's incredibly selfish. Instead of helping those in need, he pilfered money to line his own pockets and, in the end, got a plate full of trouble."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HRA Commissioner Verna Eggleston, Director of Home Care Services Kathleen Tyler and members of their staff for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for HRA Gerard Hoey, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General W. Valentine Douglas, and Investigative Auditor Boris Galchenko.

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Nitin Savur.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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