

The City of New York Department of Investigation

> ROSE GILL HEARN COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 212-825-5900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, MAY 5, 2003 Release #021-2003 nyc.gov/html/doi

CONTACT: EMILY GEST (212) 825-5931

MAN TRIES TO AVOID PAYING \$3,000 in PARKING SUMMONSES -- Allegedly forges documents to get his car out of the tow pound --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of HUGH GREENWOOD for forging documents so he wouldn't have to pay nearly \$3,000 in outstanding parking summonses and towing fees.

Greenwood, 31, of Brooklyn, will be charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Forgery in the Second Degree, Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, he faces 12 years in jail.

DOI began its investigation after the Legal Division of the New York City Sheriff's Office reported that a Judgment Release Worksheet (JRW) had been stolen from the Brooklyn Business Center, said Commissioner Gill Hearn. JRWs, which contain the registered owner's name, as well as the make and model of the towed car and the amount of money owed in outstanding parking summonses and tow fees, are faxed usually to tow pounds so that the lot operators know they can release an impounded vehicle to its owner. The stolen form had been altered to indicate that Greenwood had paid his \$3,000 fines. Additionally, a signature had been forged to indicate that someone had approved the release of Greenwood's 2000 Ford Taurus.

Investigators concluded that Greenwood somehow got possession of his JRW and went to the Brooklyn tow pound holding his Taurus and presented the stolen and altered JRW as well as a driver's license for an alias, Ronald D. Jones of Queens. The tow pound operator, determined the document had been forged, released the car, which was registered to Ronald D. Jones. While trying to find Jones, investigators discovered that the name was really an alias used by Hugh Greenwood. They also learned that Greenwood, under his real name and his alias, is on probation in three other states.

"The Mr. Greenwoods of the City who engage in this type of skullduggery should know that we will hunt them down, arrest them, have them prosecuted and make them pay their fines," said Commissioner Gill Hearn. "Corruption of any kind will not be tolerated."

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Assistant Commissioner Vincent E. Green, Deputy Inspector General Alberta Ancrum and Special Investigators Michael Granatstein, Kourosh Aliha, Dalila Cummings and Roxanne Harmon.

The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.