



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #033-2000

Queens Man Arrested For Computer Theft In DOI "Sting" *-Stole City DDC Employee's Identity-*

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of JAMAL KEITH, a Queens resident, for unlawfully taking a \$3,000 shipment of computers delivered to his home during an undercover "sting" operation.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation in March when a City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) employee complained that his name and social security number had been illegally used by someone to obtain a line of credit, and then to purchase 2 computers worth over \$4,000, from the Gateway Computer Company of North Sioux City, South Dakota. The DDC worker first learned that his identity had been stolen when he was notified that a loan account with the

The DOI investigation disclosed that the 2 computers had been delivered to a first-floor apartment in the Queensbridge Houses, at 40-03 Vernon Boulevard in Long Island City, and that the delivery manifest had been signed by a person improperly using the DDC employee's name.

Last week, in a "sting" operation, a DOI undercover investigator posing as a UPS truck driver went to the Queens apartment and told KEITH he had a delivery of 3 computers for the DDC employee. KEITH allegedly inspected the boxes in the truck, which were clearly marked with the Gateway Computer logo, and then unlawfully took possession of the 3 computers by signing the driver's log, falsely indicating that he was the DDC worker's son.

KEITH, 28, of Queens, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D felony; Forgery in the Second Degree, a Class D felony; and, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DDC Commissioner Kenneth Holden, the Gateway Computer Company, the United Parcel Service, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and NYPD Detectives of the 114th Precinct, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation, which is continuing, is being conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DDC, Ronald P. Calvosa, and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Mary T. Piechocki, Assistant Inspector General Chuck Joe, and Confidential Investigators Omar Sarach

and Marc Weisenfeld.

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney David Chen is handling the matter.

Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.