



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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TEMP AGENCY CLERK ARRESTED FOR STEALING FROM CHASE BANK
- Filched 11 TLC Money Orders Sent to Renew Drivers' Licenses & Livery Registration --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of Mohamed Ibrahim, a former temporary agency clerk, for stealing 11 money orders worth \$4,330 from a bank. The money had been sent to the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) for renewal of licenses or livery registrations.

Ibrahim, 33, of Brooklyn and Guyana, was charged with unlawfully embezzling and willfully misapplying moneys funds assets and securities – a violation of Title 18 U.S. Code, section 656. If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in jail.

DOI began its investigation after a TLC-licensed driver said he had not received his two-year livery registration card even though he had mailed his registration renewal application along with a \$550 U.S. Postal Service money order for payment. TLC licensees mail their driver's license or vehicle registration renewal applications and payments to the TLC via the General Post Office in Manhattan. The applications are retrieved by Chase Manhattan Bank couriers and delivered for processing, which at the time of the theft was at the bank's branch at 55 Water Street, according to Commissioner Gill Hearn.

Investigators determined that 11 money orders, nine from the U.S. Postal Service and two from Travelers Express Company – had been purchased by four TLC drivers for license renewals and seven TLC livery drivers renewing their TLC vehicle registrations on various dates in May, June and July 2000.

Ibrahim, a former employee of AccuStaff Temp Agency in Manhattan, had been assigned to work from May 8 to July 10, 2000 as a night-shift processing clerk at a Chase Manhattan lockbox processing unit at 55 Water Street where he had direct access to TLC money orders. During DOI's investigation, Ibrahim fled to Guyana, where he has been for the past two years.

The investigation was conducted by TLC Inspector General John McMahon and Special Investigator Tim Crowe.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked TLC Chairperson Matthew Daus and his staff, as well as Postal Inspector Rob Bernstein of the U.S. Postal Service, Vice President, Fraud Prevention & Investigation Dept. at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank John Devereux for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The office of U.S Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Roslynn R. Mauskopf is handling the case.

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