Department of Investigation
Press Release

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CITY HOMELESS SERVICES WORKER ARRESTED IN THEFT
--Stole Mnager's $1,400 Salary Check--

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ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of a Department of Homeless Services clerical employee, RUSSELL BOYD, assigned to the Eligibility Investigation Unit in the Bronx, for stealing and negotiating a manager's salary check, in the amount of $1,480.81.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that DOI began an investigation last month when DHS reported that a salary check, dated March 28, 2002, and payable to a DHS manager, had been discovered missing when the manager returned from a vacation in April 2002, and may have been fraudulently cashed.

The investigation disclosed that on March 28, 2002, the manager's salary check had been negotiated at a Bronx check cashing establishment -- frequented by BOYD to cash his own salary checks -- and was endorsed by a "Russell Boyd." A handwriting analysis of the canceled check revealed that it had been endorsed and signed by BOYD.

BOYD, 42, of 75 West 190th Street in the Bronx, has been employed at DHS as a clerical associate since August 1997, earning $15 an hour. He has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison. He has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the case.

The investigation was conducted by Gerard Hoey, DOI's Inspector General for DHS, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Caputo and Confidential Investigator Bryan Masmela.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to DHS Commissioner Linda Gibbs and members of her staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.