



Department of Investigation

Press Release

HUNTS POINT MARKET SECURITY DIRECTOR CHARGED WITH STEALING \$50,000 FROM PENSION SYSTEM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1999, Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Edward J. Kuriansky announced today that a grand jury has charged a former New York City Housing Police Officer with stealing more than \$50,000 from the New York City Retirement System and failing to pay personal income and corporate taxes on the illegally obtained earnings.

Donald Owen, 38, of Roslyn, New York, was indicted on 1 count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, 5 counts of Making an Apparently Sworn False Statement in the First Degree, 5 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, 5 counts of Falsification of Business Records in the First Degree and 2 counts Failure to File Income and Corporate Taxes.

Owen is facing a maximum sentence of up to 15 years imprisonment if convicted of the most serious charge, Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony offense. Each of the other charges are Class E felony offenses punishable by a maximum sentence of up to 4 years on each count.

It is alleged that Owen, who retired from the New York City Police Department in 1992 on an annual disability pension of \$37,850, illegally concealed additional earning in 1994, 1995 and 1996 that would have significantly reduced the payments from his disability pension.

Owen, who was hired as Director of Security at the Hunts Point Terminal Market after leaving the NYPD, allegedly grossly under reported his true income, including his salary which ranged from \$53,000 - \$66,000 a year during the period covered by the indictment. As a recipient of disability pension, Owen was required by law to report supplemental income to the New York City Employees' Retirement System.

Under the eligibility rules governing his disability pension, Owen was allowed to earn up to \$64,159 a year including payments from the New York City Employees' Retirement System. Any earnings above the ceiling would result in a dollar for dollar reduction in pension payments.

It is alleged that Owen filed affidavits with NYCERS stating that his earning in 1994, 1995 and 1996 were \$15,000, and \$10,000 respectively. Owen actually earned well in excess of \$50,000 a year during that period. Owen was paid through EPI 2000 Incorporated, a security business that he established in 1993. Owen also was listed as the sole employee of the business.

In addition to allegedly concealing his true salary as Director of Security at the Hunts Point Terminal Market, Owen is also accused of writing checks in excess of \$200,000 on the account of EPI 2000 to pay for such personal expenses as credit card bills, motor vehicle rentals and improvements of his \$300,000 home on Long Island.

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF BRONX COUNTY

Owen was arrested in Bronx State Supreme Court when he appeared in connection with two other unrelated indictments in which he had been charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property and Intimidating a Witness. He was free on \$50,000 bail in those cases.

Following his arraignment on the new charges Owen, who had been free on \$50,000 bail, was remanded by Acting State Supreme Court Justice Dennis Boyle.

District Attorney Johnson thanked New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Edward Kuriansky and his staff, including Terri Feinstein-Sasanow, DOI Assistant Commissioner for Public Markets, and Neil Kern, Former DOI Chief Investigator for Markets, as well as NYPD Sgt. Robert Uzcategui of the Bronx D.A. Squad, for their cooperation in the investigation.

Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney Alex Zigman is prosecuting the case.