



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DOI ARRESTS TWO MEN IN OVERTIME FRAUD

--Department of Finance Clerk, Contract Security Guard Submitted False Time Sheets --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced that DOI has arrested two individuals on felony charges of stealing approximately \$15,000 in overtime pay between April 2001 and August 2002 by falsifying time sheets. PETER VILLELLA, a clerical aide with the Department of Finance ("DOF"), and JAMES BRIGANDINO, a security guard employed by the Explorer Investigation Agency, a DOF contractor, were arrested yesterday by DOI investigators.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that earlier this month a DOF manager had alerted DOI to the overtime scam. DOI's investigation revealed that VILLELLA, who is reportedly a personal friend of BRIGANDINO, had signed approximately 75 of BRIGANDINO's time sheets, fraudulently approving claimed overtime that BRIGANDINO had not in fact worked, and that the two men had cheated the City of approximately \$15,000 through the scheme. Both men were assigned to the DOF City Register's Office at 210 Joralemon Street Brooklyn.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF Commissioner Martha E. Stark for DOF's assistance in the investigation.

PETER VILLELLA, age 46, resides at 102-18 Corona Avenue Corona, in Queens, and has been employed by DOF for approximately 18 years, currently as a clerical aide, where he was paid \$15.09 per hour. He has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment. He has been suspended without pay from his DOF position.

JAMES BRIGANDINO, age 37, of 139 Lorimer Street Brooklyn, has been employed by the Explorer Investigation Agency, 601 West 51st Street, in Manhattan, as a security guard at the Brooklyn City Register's Office for approximately three years. He received \$11.09 per hour and overtime at the rate of \$16.05 per hour. He has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and, if convicted, faces a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner / DOF Inspector General Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Maureen A. Thomas-Lewis, First Assistant Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, and Confidential Investigator Bella Ortiz.

DOI Arrest Two Men In Overtime Fraud

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Darcy Katzin.

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