



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

**Release # 052-2002**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2002

### **DOI ARRESTS CITY PLANNING CLERK FOR THEFT** *--Charged With Pocketing Bookstore's Cash Receipts --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced that DOI has arrested a clerk in the Department of City Planning's bookstore on felony charges of stealing more than \$1,000 in cash and falsifying records to conceal the thefts. City Planning officials alerted DOI to the scheme and actively assisted in the investigation that led to the arrest. DOI detectives arrested CLARINE ISRAEL yesterday afternoon at her workplace in lower Manhattan.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that earlier this month a City Planning supervisor notified DOI that ISRAEL, a clerk assigned to City Planning's bookstore at 22 Reade Street, was suspected of stealing cash and that several Zoning Resolution books, which sell for \$517.13 each, were missing. DOI investigators discovered that ISRAEL was failing to ring up cash sales in the cash register, failing to put cash in the register drawer, giving paying customers handmade receipts rather than register receipts, and omitting cash sales from her tally of the bookstore's daily receipts. Investigators then made several purchases from ISRAEL, totaling more than \$1,000, and found that none of the bills they had given her, except for five dollars, was in the cash drawer and that ISRAEL's register and daily tallies of receipts contained no record of the sales.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "The charges reflect a calculated scheme by an experienced but unfaithful employee to skim cash from the City's till. This arrest should deter anyone else who might see an opportunity to steal from the City on the mistaken assumption that no one is watching the store." Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked City Planning Director Amanda Burden for her office's assistance in the investigation.

CLARINE ISRAEL, age 43, resides at 112-46 Dillon Street Jamaica, Queens, and has been employed by City Planning for approximately 15 years, currently as a clerical associate, where she was paid \$12.45 per hour. She has been charged with Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Defrauding the Government, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, she faces a maximum sentence of seven years' imprisonment. She also faces disciplinary action.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for City Planning, Dennis Curran, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro, Special Investigator Yves Desire, Confidential Investigator Eugenia Patrikis, and Examining Attorney Derek Pieper and by members of DOI's Detective Squad, including New York City Police Department Detectives Vinessa Toyer and Derrick Davis, and Special Investigators Walter Strack and Victor Buttarro.

DOI Arrest City Planning Clerk For Theft

The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Nitin S. Savur of Trial Bureau 80.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: KEITH SCHWAM**

(212) 825-5958