



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #043-99

DOI ARRESTS ◦PHANTOM◦ BROOKLYN BUILDING SUPER FOR STEALING \$1,100 IN UNEARNED SALARY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ANTHONY V. JONES, the former superintendent of a City-owned building in Brooklyn, for stealing more than \$1,100 of unearned salary.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, JONES had been the superintendent of 552 St. Marks Avenue in Brooklyn, a City-owned building in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD) Division of Alternative Management Program, until June 1, 1995, when HPD sold the building to the Neighborhood Entrepreneur Program (NEP). As building superintendent, JONES was employed by Security and Bonded Corporation (SBC), a contractor hired by HPD to manage the building's superintendent and handyman contract. JONES collected the last paycheck to which he was entitled on June 15, 1995.

DOI commenced an investigation when HPD reported that an audit of SBC's superintendent payroll records for the period, July 1, 1997, to July 1, 1998, revealed that payroll checks had continued to be issued to JONES. The investigation determined that although JONES was not formally notified of his termination until August 7, 1998, he had been advised by NEP, in May 1995, that HPD no longer owned the building and that his services were no longer required. JONES'S name, however, continued to appear on SBC's biweekly payroll rosters, although he did not pick up any checks for almost two years following the sale of the building. In July 1997, JONES resumed collecting payroll checks and continued collecting them until June 15, 1998, even though he was not working as the building superintendent. As a result, JONES illegally collected nearly \$1,180 in salary.

JONES, 31, of 53-17 Junction Boulevard in East Elmhurst, Queens, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E felony punishable by up to 4 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Steve Fodera, Director of HPD's Internal Audit Division, for initially uncovering the matter and promptly referring it to DOI.

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI'S Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Frank Floridia and Associate Investigative Auditor Muriel M. Moses.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case.