



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FIREFIGHTER COLLARED FOR TAKING \$12,300 IN UNLAWFUL BENEFITS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Investigation, and ROBERT T. JOHNSON, Bronx County District Attorney, announced today the felony arrest of Curtis A. Crowe for allegedly unlawfully receiving approximately \$12,300 in benefits from the City Workers' Compensation Fund.

Crowe, 40, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing, Insurance Fraud and Falsifying Business Records. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in jail.

During the course of an investigation that led to Crowe's arrest in September 2002 for receiving \$4,600 in Nebraska workers-comp benefits while working for the New York City Fire Department, DOI discovered that Crowe had been receiving New York City Workers' Compensation payments after being injured while working as a New York City lifeguard in 1992. In 1997, the City Workers' Compensation Board determined Crowe was permanently partially disabled and awarded him \$220 biweekly in Worker's Compensation Benefits. However, when Crowe was hired by the FDNY in 2000, he passed a physical exam indicating he was fit for duty. In December 2001, even though he had been actively employed as a firefighter for nearly two years, Crowe submitted a notarized affidavit to the NYC Law Department stating that he was not working so that he could continue to receive the Workers' Compensation Benefits. In total, Crowe received approximately \$12,300 in benefits from the City Workers' Compensation Fund to which he was not entitled.

Crowe's 2002 case is awaiting trial in Bronx Supreme Court. Since his arrest in 2002, Crowe has been on administrative duty.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn and District Attorney Robert T. Johnson thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta for his assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This case was investigated by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Fire Department, the Bronx District Attorney's Office, the New York City Fire Department and the New York City Law Department's Workers Compensation Division.

The Office of the Bronx District Attorney is handling the matter and Assistant District Attorney Larry Hartstein is prosecuting under the supervision of Rackets Bureau Chief Tom Leahy.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*