



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release # 069-2000

City Sanitation Worker Arrested In Theft

-Stole Former Co-Worker's \$1,400 Salary Refund Check-

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2000

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of RICHARD AMUSO, a City Department of Sanitation (DOS) worker, for stealing and negotiating a retired sanitation worker's retroactive salary refund check, in the amount of \$1,412.

Commissioner Kuriansky said that DOI began an investigation when DOS reported that a lump-sum salary refund check, payable to a DOS retiree for prior Social Security payroll deductions, had been stolen from the desk of a DOS clerk.

The investigation disclosed that in August 1998, AMUSO, at the time assigned to the Brooklyn South 12 garage at 5602 19th Avenue, was filling in for a superintendent's clerk who was on leave, and had access to a small, unlocked, metal file container on the clerk's desk where the check was being kept pending notification to the retired employee. The regular clerk discovered the check was missing when he returned from leave.

The investigation further revealed that AMUSO had cashed the check, which contained the forged signature of the retired worker, at the Independence Savings Bank (now known as Independence Community Bank) at 4514 16th Street in Brooklyn.

AMUSO, 38, of 26 Linda Lane, Staten Island, who is currently assigned to District 2 on Staten Island, has been employed as a sanitation worker since August 19, 1987, and earns a base salary of \$44,441 a year. He has been suspended pending the outcome of the case.

AMUSO was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a Class D felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree, both Class E felonies. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DOS Commissioner Kevin P. Farrell and his staff, particularly Ronald Gerlich, Deputy Chief of the Field Intelligence Audit Team (FIAT), for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Edward Rothman, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of

Sanitation, and members of his staff, including Chief Investigator Marcia Hinds.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Patrick Cappock of the DA's Rackets Division is handling the matter.