



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release # 055-2002

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2002

DOI ARRESTS PROBATION OFFICER FOR SEXUAL ABUSE

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of MICHAEL JACKSON, a Department of Probation (DOP) officer, for official misconduct and on charges that he sexually abused a 19-year old male probationer.

JACKSON was charged with 2 counts of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, 2 counts of Official Misconduct, 2 counts Harassment in the Second Degree and 2 counts Forcible Touching. If convicted, he faces up to 1 year in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "It is troubling that Mr. Jackson, who worked in a position of trust, violated that trust by engaging in such reprehensible behavior."

JACKSON is a probation officer assigned to DOP's Violation Unit in Kew Gardens, Queens, where he is responsible for monitoring violation cases and supervising probationers.

According to Commissioner Gill Hearn, on or about, and between, September 17 and September 19, 2002, JACKSON allegedly fondled a 19-year old male probationer in his office, when he placed his hand inside the waistband of the probationer's pants and rubbed him. Again, on October 1, 2002, JACKSON allegedly placed his hand inside the probationer's pants and kissed him on his cheek.

JACKSON, 41, of Queens, was arrested by DOI Investigators this morning at the Queens District Attorney's office. He has worked at DOP since November 5, 1997, earning \$40,694 a year. Upon his arrest, JACKSON was suspended without pay.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to DOP Commissioner Martin F. Horn and members of his staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

Commissioner Horn said "We take these charges very seriously. We will not tolerate any officer abusing his or her authority."

The investigation was conducted by Michael Caruso, DOI's Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for DOP and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Valerie Brown, Supervising Investigator Octavia Hill and Confidential Investigator Lawrence McGugins.

DOI Arrests Probation Office For Sexual Abuse

The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Carmencita Gutierrez, the Deputy Bureau Chief of DA Brown's Integrity Bureau, is handling the matter.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.