



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS MAN ON CHARGES OF ENDANGERING WOMAN
WITH FALSE HIV/AIDS TEST AND UNPROTECTED SEX**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of DUANE LANG on charges that he used a fake document, purportedly issued by the AIDS Center of Queens County ("ACQC"), indicating that LANG had tested negative for HIV/AIDS, to convince a woman to engage in unprotected sex.

ACQC, based in Rego Park, contracts with the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") and receives City funds to provide testing, counseling and outreach to the community on HIV/AIDS. LANG is a former volunteer at the facility.

LANG, 47, of Queens, was arrested and charged Monday, December 8, 2008, with Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration. He was arraigned in Queens Criminal Court Monday night and released on his own recognizance. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "With deceit and depravity, the defendant repeatedly endangered the life of a person he supposedly cared for, according to the criminal complaint. Rarely have we seen a forged document used in a way that is so directly and personally destructive to another human being. The consequences for that kind of conduct include arrest, criminal prosecution and possibly a prison sentence."

New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden said, "This is a tragic situation and serves as a reminder that things may not always be as they seem. Even if you have talked to your partner about HIV status, the best way to protect yourself from HIV and other sexually transmitted infections is to use a condom every time you have sex."

According to the criminal complaint, LANG sought to have unprotected sex with a woman who asked for proof of his HIV status. LANG presented the woman with a document bearing the name of ACQC, indicating that LANG was a client of ACQC and stating that as of December 12, 2007, he was "negative/non-reactive for the HIV-1 antibody based upon the rapid HIV antibody test." As a result, the woman engaged in unprotected sex with LANG between eight and ten times from December 2007 to March 2008.

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The complaint further states that in March 2008 the woman questioned LANG about the authenticity of the document, and LANG acknowledged to her that he has been HIV positive since 2003 and was not tested on December 12, 2007. Later, LANG told the woman that he has been HIV positive since 2002 and had created the fake document, according to the criminal complaint.

A DOI investigator showed LANG's document to the medical director of ACQC who confirmed that he had not signed the document and that his name was misspelled, the complaint states.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOHMH, Christopher Staackmann, and other DOI investigators, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander and Special Investigator Danielle Caruso.

The case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Theresa Smith of the Queens County District Attorney's office.

A criminal complaint is merely an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**