



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #059-99

DOI ARRESTS PVO CLERK FOR ILLEGALLY DISMISSING \$22,000 IN PARKING TICKETS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of SIMONE PAUL, a temporary contract employee formerly assigned as a data entry clerk at the Department of Finance's Parking Violations Operation (PVO), for unlawfully dismissing more than 200 parking tickets, totaling over \$22,000.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, as a data entry clerk in the PVO's Hearing by Mail Unit, PAUL was responsible for inputting the dispositions of parking summonses that Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) had adjudicated. In April 1998, DOI initiated an investigation when another clerk assigned to the unit reported that summonses issued to PAUL's boyfriend had been dismissed without the proper back-up documentation needed to support such a determination. A review of documents processed by PAUL revealed that, from October 1997 to March 1998, PAUL had used her computer code to access the PVO computer and improperly dismiss \$22,318 in parking tickets issued to her boyfriend and others -- including her stepbrother, her aunt's boyfriend, and the owner of a neighborhood pizza parlor. Documents submitted by PAUL in support of the dismissals also allegedly contained the forged signatures of several ALJs.

Commissioner Kuriansky noted that all of the dismissed parking tickets will be reinstated and that the violators will be required to make full payment on each, including penalties and interest, to PVO.

Mr. Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Department of Finance Commissioner Andrew S. Eristoff and the staff of PVO's Hearing by Mail unit for their assistance and cooperation during the course of the investigation.

PAUL, 33, of Dekruif Place in the Bronx, works for the Irene Cohen Temporary Personnel Agency, and was assigned to PVO from September 1997 until March 13, 1998, when she was terminated. PAUL was charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Forgery in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, and Tampering with a Public Record in the First Degree. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner and Inspector General for the Department of Finance Vincent E. Green and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Alberta E. Ancrum and Investigator Roxanne Harmon. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney David Kwon is handling the matter under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Leroy Frazer, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Prosecutions Bureau.