



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release 66-2003
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2003

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CITY CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES ARRESTED FOR THEFT
-- City billed for unauthorized personal calls worth more than \$5,000--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of five individuals for allegedly placing unauthorized long distance telephone calls costing more than \$5,000 on a Bronx Board of Elections telephone line.

Those arrested today are Jose Fernandez, 36, of Ridgefield, New Jersey; Ruben Rivera, 30, of the Bronx; Roberto Suero, 27, of the Bronx; Santos Parades, 44, of the Bronx; and Eugenio Magan 28, of the Bronx. Fernandez and Rivera are expected to be charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, they each could face up to four years in prison. Magan, Parades, and Suero are expected to be charged with Petit Larceny. If convicted, they each could face up to one year in prison.

DOI's investigation began when the New York City Board of Elections reported that a number of unauthorized telephone calls had been made to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, Florida, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Connecticut. Investigators determined employees of Expanets, a company installing telephone and computer lines for a Bronx office of the Human Resources Administration, had made the phone calls. The office building also houses the Bronx Board of Elections. The phone charges attributed to each defendant range from \$183 to \$2,781.50. All but Fernandez are current Expanets employees.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "In trying to get the City to pay for their personal long distance calls, these defendants acted irresponsibly and foolishly. Keeping in touch with friends and family is important but these defendants shouldn't expect the taxpayers to pay for these telephone calls."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Board of Elections for its assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Julia Davis, DOI's Inspector General for Executive Offices and Non-Mayoral Agencies, and Confidential Investigator Edward Richards. The office of the Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney Natacha Mina will prosecute.

Criminal Complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.