



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release 065-99

DOI INTEGRITY TEST SNARES FDNY EMT IN \$1,000 THEFT FROM UNDERCOVER "PATIENT"

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ERIC M. CARLO, a New York City Fire Department Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), for stealing over \$1,000 in cash from an undercover officer posing as a patient.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI has received numerous complaints from patients of losing money and property while in CARLO's care. In response to these allegations, DOI this past Wednesday conducted an integrity test on CARLO, who is presently assigned to Battalion 53 in Fort Totten, Queens, by having his ambulance respond to a DOI undercover officer posing as a patient in distress. As the patient was being transported to Long Island Jewish Hospital, CARLO allegedly removed \$1,005 in cash from the patient's jacket pocket. Immediately after the patient was dropped off at the hospital, the ambulance was pulled over by other DOI detectives and the money, which had been hidden in one of the ambulance's portable oxygen tank holders, was recovered.

"Every day patients throughout the City put their lives and trust in the hands of EMTs. For this one corrupt employee to betray both his sworn duty and his fellow medical technicians by looting the vulnerable patients in his care is offensive and inexcusable," Commissioner Kuriansky said, noting that DOI will continue to conduct such integrity tests throughout the City.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen and his staff for their assistance and cooperation during the course of the investigation.

CARLO, 38, of Albermarle Avenue in Bellmore, Long Island, has been employed as an EMT since 1992. He was immediately suspended without pay.

CARLO was charged with two counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and one count of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 4 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Felicia A. Memmin, DOI's Inspector General for the Fire Department, and members of her staff, in particular Deputy Inspector General Elyse N. Post, Chief Investigator Frank Smith, and Confidential Investigators Debra Monte and Jayme Naberezny. Additional assistance was provided by the DOI Investigative Squad, in particular NYPD Detective Evelyn Delgado.

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

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Members of the public are reminded that a complaint is merely an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. Every defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial in which it is the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.