



The City of New York
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**DOI-NYPD INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST IN PAY-TO-PARK SCAM
THAT USED A CLOSED CITY TRANSPORTATION GARAGE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrest of a Brooklyn man on charges of unlawfully occupying and charging motorists to park in a closed City Department of Transportation (“DOT”) garage in lower Manhattan. DOI and the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) jointly conducted the investigation after DOI was notified by DOT, in September 2009, that an individual was breaking into the DOT garage. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

STEVEN PAPPAS, 48, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was charged today with two counts each of Burglary in the Third Degree, a class D felony, punishable on conviction by up to seven years in prison, and Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, punishable on conviction by up to a year’s incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Commandeering a City garage for a pay-to-park scam is one of the more brazen charged frauds we’ve seen. But recovering the discarded soda can gave this story a sweet ending. Fortunately, DOI was able to join forces with the NYPD, and shut it down after a brief run.”

According to the criminal complaint, on two occasions in September 2009, PAPPAS was observed in the DOT garage at 31 South Street, which is near Old Slip, in Manhattan where he accepted money from motorists to park their vehicles. The complaint also charges that on the second occasion PAPPAS dropped a soda can and fled when police officers approached the garage and that his DNA was later identified on the soda can.

In an unrelated case, PAPPAS faces felony charges from a September 13, 2009 arrest in connection with the illegal operation of a parking garage at a vacant construction site on Maiden Lane between Front and South Streets in Manhattan. That case is pending.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau and their staffs for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted jointly by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DOT and NYPD’s 1st Precinct Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney David Neeman from the New York County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is 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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