



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #14-2006
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212)825-5931

DOI ARRESTS FIRE FIGHTER FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of MICHAEL J.HENGERLE, a New York City Probationary Fire Fighter stationed at FDNY Engine Company 320 in Bayside, Queens, for allegedly stealing a \$125 gift card from a colleague's locker.

HENGERLE, 25 of Centerreach, Long Island, will be charged with Petit Larceny. If convicted, he faces up to one year in jail. He joined the FDNY in May 2005.

After receiving a tip about the theft from the FDNY, DOI investigators determined that HENGERLE had gone to the PC Richard store on Northern Blvd. in Bayside, Queens and purchased merchandise that exceeded the value of the \$125 gift card he had allegedly stolen from his colleague. HENGERLE used his own credit card to pay the remaining balance.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Firehouse culture is built upon trust because fire fighters may need to rely upon each other in life-threatening situations. The conduct charged here indicates a betrayal of that trust. This defendant has been charged with theft, but another alleged crime may be that he has robbed himself of a future with the FDNY."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and FDNY staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case. This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for the FDNY. This matter will be prosecuted by the Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Get the worms out of the apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.