



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS DOT SUPERVISOR FOR STEALING MONEY FROM CITY PARKING METERS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today that WILLIAM RAMIREZ, a New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) Supervising Parking Meter Service Worker, was arrested Thursday for allegedly stealing from New York City parking meters.

RAMIREZ, 53, of the Bronx, has been charged with Official Misconduct, Petit Larceny, Possession of Burglar's Tools, and two counts of Criminal Mischief in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, he faces up to one year in jail.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant used his position as a DOT supervisor to 'short-change' the City of revenue from parking meters. As a result of his illegal actions, he will find himself parked in a City jail. I applaud the City employee who astutely reported this illegal misconduct."

DOI initiated this investigation following information received from DOT's Internal Security Unit, who had learned from a DOT employee that Ramirez was engaging in suspicious activity. RAMIREZ, who has been with DOT since 1997, is currently a supervisor in DOT's Meter Collections Division assigned as a driver of a DOT Meter Collection vehicle, as well as the supervisor for the meter collectors assigned to that vehicle. On March 23, 2006, while his subordinates were to collect the revenue from the meters, RAMIREZ was assigned to stay with the collection vehicle and stay within the vicinity of the collectors. RAMIREZ was not supposed to be removing any money from the meters. It is alleged that instead of performing his assigned responsibilities, RAMIREZ drove a short distance away from the collectors, opened meters, and then proceeded to force open the coin boxes and stole the quarters contained therein.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and members of her staff, including DOT's Internal Security/Special Investigation Division for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This is not the first time that a DOI investigation has led to the arrest and prosecution of individuals stealing money from parking meters. Between 2001 and 2002, a DOI investigation led to the arrest and indictment of 10 individuals for conspiracy and theft of tens of thousands of dollars from New York City parking meters. All 10 defendants were convicted and sentenced for their role in this scheme. In a case similar to the RAMIREZ investigation, in 1998, DOI arrested a DOT supervisor for stealing more than \$3,000 in quarters from the DOT Meter Collections Facility. This defendant was convicted of Grand Larceny and was terminated from DOT.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOT Mary T. Piechocki and members of her staff, including First Deputy Inspector General John Bellanie, Counsel for the Inspector General Gia Morris, Assistant Inspector General Edward Zinser, Assistant Inspector General Chuck Joe and Investigator Alison Bonfoey. The office of the New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will prosecute this case and Assistant District Attorney Melissa Marrus will handle the matter.

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

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