



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS QUEENS RESIDENT FOR ALLEGEDLY USING FORGED CITY MARSHAL'S
PAYMENT RECEIPT TO RECLAIM TOWED CAR**

--Car was towed because of \$456 in unpaid tickets --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of EARL L. HINSON, JR., for allegedly using a forged City marshal's payment receipt to trick a Queens tow-yard clerk into releasing his 2006 Nissan Altima, which the marshal had towed for \$456 in unpaid tickets.

HINSON, 37, of Far Rockaway, Queens, was arrested late Tuesday afternoon and charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony; Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony; and Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor and related charges. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison. After the fraud was discovered, Hinson's car was re-towed by a City marshal and is in an impound lot.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "No one enjoys paying parking tickets, but forging official documents to evade paying them isn't an option. Now, the individual in this case is charged with a foolish fraud, has lost his car, still owes his fines and may lose his freedom."

According to the criminal complaint, on February 21, 2007, in Queens, City Marshal Jacob D. Sampson, working with his licensed towing contractor, Fleet Recovery, Inc., towed the car registered to HINSON'S relative for \$456 in unpaid tickets. Nine days later, on March 2, 2007, at Fleet's yard in South Ozone Park, Queens, HINSON presented his driver's license and a phony release form supposedly issued by Marshal Sampson, which falsely stated that HINSON had paid the marshal \$1,244 for outstanding tickets and collection fees. In fact, the complaint charges, Hinson paid nothing. Fleet's clerk accepted the forged document and released the car to HINSON. Within five days, the forgery was discovered and reported to DOI.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Marshal Sampson and Fleet Recovery for their cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, particularly Confidential Investigator Teresa Pinckney, and by DOI's Investigative Squad of New York City Police Department detectives, particularly Detective Mike Trentacosta. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.