



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS SANITATION EMPLOYEE FOR PAYING BILLS WITH BOSS'S MONEY**  
**— He accesses supervisor's bank account and transfers more than \$3,000 to his own accounts —**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of CHARLES CESAREO for transferring more than \$3,000 from his supervisor's bank account to pay his own mortgage and credit card bills.

CESAREO, 40, of Queens, is a staff analyst in the Engineering Division of the Department of Sanitation. He has been charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

Today's charges result from complaints DOI received from Citigroup, which reported that a client, who turned out to be CESAREO's supervisor, had informed the bank that money had been withdrawn from his Citibank checking account without his permission. DOI investigators determined that CESAREO used his supervisor's private personal information for his checking account in order to make electronic payments to CESAREO's mortgage and credit card accounts. According to the Complaint, on March 10, 2003, CESAREO electronically transferred \$6,911.72 from his boss' account to his own mortgage account. On March 31, 2003, CESAREO again accessed his supervisor's personal information and transferred \$902.88 to pay his American Express bill and \$1,124.68 to pay his Capitol One bill.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The crimes with which Mr. CESAREO has been charged exemplify unscrupulous conduct and a betrayal of trust. These crimes underscore the fact that identity theft is a serious and rapidly growing crime that can have an adverse, long-term impact upon its victims, exposing them to financial liability and ruined credit. I urge all New Yorkers to protect themselves from identity theft and safeguard their personal information."

Commissioner Gill Hearn offered these tips to help prevent identity theft: 1) Each year order your credit report from the three credit bureaus and check for fraudulent activity; 2) Send a letter to each of the credit agencies directing them not to issue credit in your name without contacting you first; 3) Shred all documents that contain your personal identification; and 4) Do not use your Social Security number as a password. To obtain a copy of the DOI brochure, "Preventing Identity Theft," call (212) 825-5931 or visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/html/identity.html>.

This investigation was conducted by Julia Davis, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Sanitation; and members of her staff, including Frank Florida, Deputy Inspector General; and Kevin Grimes, Confidential Investigator. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Janet Lipinski of the Special Prosecutions Bureau is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Bureau Chief Leroy Frazer and Deputy Bureau Chief Thomas A. Wornom.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Senior Investigative Manager Thomas Doonan of Citigroup's Investigative Services for his work on the investigation.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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 make complaints about someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***