



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release # 30-2006
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006

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**DOI ARRESTS TWO DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE EMPLOYEES FOR STEALING PAYMENTS
FROM BROOKLYN AND QUEENS BUSINESS CENTERS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of ANNIE STATON and RAKA ARORA for stealing payments from New York City Department of Finance (DOF) Business Centers. STATON, a cashier in DOF's Brooklyn Business Center, admitted to stealing a \$700 payment from a customer and ARORA, a cashier in DOF's Queens Business Center, admitted to stealing a \$60 payment from a customer.

STATON, 46, of Brooklyn, will be charged with Official Misconduct and Petit Larceny. If convicted, she faces up to one year in jail.

ARORA, 48, of Queens, was charged with Official Misconduct, Petit Larceny, Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, and Tampering with Public Records in the Second Degree. If convicted, she faces up to one year in jail.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These defendants chose to pad their own finances by pocketing payments intended for DOF. Their actions are not only greedy, they are also illegal, and this kind of misconduct will not be tolerated."

DOI began its investigation of STATON after receiving a complaint from an individual who visited the Brooklyn Business Center to pay his property taxes. The complainant paid STATON \$700 and received a receipt. However, he noticed the following day that the receipt stated "\$00.00" paid and did not document his \$700 payment. Upon questioning, STATON admitted stealing the \$700.

DOI began its investigation of ARORA after receiving a complaint from an individual who visited the Queens Business Center to pay a summons. He paid \$60 to ARORA and received a receipt. One month later, the complainant received a delinquency notice from DOF stating he had not paid his summons. He returned to the Queens Business Center and showed them his receipt, but it reflected "\$00.00" paid instead of his \$60 payment. Upon questioning, ARORA admitted stealing the \$60.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF's Commissioner Martha E. Stark and her staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigations.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Deputy Commissioner/Supervising Inspector General Vincent E. Green, 1st Deputy Inspector Maureen Lewis, Chief Investigator Belarminia Ortiz, Special Investigator Dalila Cummings, and Confidential Investigator Jennifer Adams.

The Office of the Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes will prosecute the STATON case. The Office of the Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the ARORA case and Assistant District Attorney Ben Mastaitis 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