



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS MAN FOR FILING FRAUDULENT CITY DOCUMENTS WITH DMV

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of EMMANUEL BUNTIN, for filing a false document at a New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) hearing in an attempt to adjudicate a summons for disobeying a red light.

BUNTIN, 22, of Queens, will be charged with Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

On October 16, 2004, BUNTIN was caught running a red light at Bradford Street and Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn by a New York City police officer. BUNTIN pleaded not guilty to the summons on the grounds that the street light was malfunctioning at the location and was given a March 22, 2005 date to appear at a DMV hearing for his case. At the hearing, BUNTIN produced what appeared to be a phony letter purporting to be from DOT's Street Lights & Traffic Signal unit, stating that the street lighting signal at the location had malfunctioned.

The hearing judge upheld the summons and immediately reported the matter to the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Fraud Investigations Unit for investigation. DMV investigators then contacted DOT about the authenticity of the letter. DOT referred the matter to DOI and a subsequent joint investigation was conducted by DMV and DOI.

The investigation determined that the letter submitted by BUNTIN was indeed a phony document. DOT's street lighting maintenance logs indicated there was no record of a malfunctioning light at the location on the date BUNTIN received the summons. Additionally, the letterhead submitted by BUNTIN to DMV was not from DOT's Street Lights & Traffic Signal Unit but from DOT's Payroll Unit.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn commended DOT and the DMV for reporting this matter to DOI. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and her staff for their assistance in this investigation.

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, Assistant Inspector General Chuck Joe, Assistant Inspector General Renard McDowell and Confidential Investigator Randall Peters, along with New York State DMV Investigators.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes will prosecute the case.

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.