



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS RECIPIENT OF DEP FUNDS FOR FORGERY

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of SUSAN COLP, an Ulster County resident, on a charge of forging a \$545 check from the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), funded by the City's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). COLP received a check from the CWC payable to her and a local plumbing contractor who had worked on a septic system, and, according to the criminal complaint, COLP forged the contractor's endorsement and deposited the money into her account. The office of Ulster County District Attorney D. Holley Carnright is prosecuting the case.

COLP was charged with Forgery in the second degree, a class D felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Anyone who fraudulently obtains public funds for personal use is cheating not only the person for whom the funds were intended but the taxpayers. It's important that the resources needed to protect the area's watershed are protected from fraud and abuse, and this case reinforces that message."

DOI began its investigation after being notified by DEP that a contractor in the NYC watershed area had repaired a residential septic system and had not received payment for his services. Under DEP's watershed protection program, DEP pays for the repair or replacement of failed or failing septic systems in the Catskill/Delaware reservoir system, the source of 90% of NYC's drinking water. The replacement and repair of these systems enable the City to maintain clean drinking water.

DOI's investigation revealed that COLP hired a local contractor to pump-out a septic system, and following the service, CWC prepared a check payable to COLP and the contractor. Under the agreement with the CWC, COLP should have endorsed the check and forwarded it to the contractor as payment for the work. The contractor never received the payment and contacted CWC. DOI's investigation revealed that COLP received the check, forged the contractor's name, and deposited the check into her account, according to the criminal complaint.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked District Attorney Carnright and Sheriff P.J. Van Blarcum and their staffs for their assistance.

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This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP Michael Carroll, Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy, and Chief Investigator Paul Zammit, under the supervision of Assistant Deputy Commissioner John Kantor.

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.**