



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS DEP LABORER ON CHARGES OF STEALING BRASS PARTS AND FORGING A DOCTOR'S NOTE

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ, a Construction Laborer employed with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), on charges of stealing used brass plumbing supplies worth more than \$1,000 from DEP and filing a forged doctor's note. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

DOI's investigation began after it was notified by DEP about the matters.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Stealing City property is not a smart way to supplement one's income. It's a crime and will result in arrest, prosecution, and possible prison time."

CHRISTIAN RODRIGUEZ, 25, of the Bronx, is charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, both class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

RODRIGUEZ has been employed by DEP for approximately six years and in 2008 received a salary of approximately \$50,000. RODRIGUEZ works in DEP's Bureau of Water and Sewer Operations and is assigned to the Pike Street Repair yard in lower Manhattan.

According to the criminal complaint, from May through August, 2008, RODRIGUEZ stole brass items from inside the Pike Street yard. DOI's investigation included interviews with an employee of a scrap yard in the Bronx where some of the items were sold. The complaint also charges that in September, 2008, RODRIGUEZ, to support a request for authorized leave, submitted a doctor's note that was later found to have been forged.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP's Acting Commissioner, Steven Lawitts, and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP, Michael Carroll, and his staff, including Chief Investigator Paul Zammit and Confidential Investigator Zeola Fox, under the supervision of Assistant Deputy Commissioner John Kantor. Assistant District Attorney Scott Leet is assigned to the prosecution.

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.