



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS CITY SANITATION WORKER ON CHARGES OF  
STEALING APPROXIMATELY \$5,020 FROM CITY EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a City Department of Sanitation ("DSNY") employee on charges of falsely claiming he did not receive \$3,680 from the New York City Employees' Retirement System, submitting a lost check claim form and fraudulently receiving those funds plus an additional \$1,340 that NYCERS issued so the employee could repay the loan. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

ANDREW RAGONE, 49, of Middle Village, Queens, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This Sanitation worker has been charged with cheating the City pension fund of several thousand dollars by fraudulently obtaining and cashing replacement and supplemental checks, according to the criminal complaint. Everyone should know, most especially City employees, that such double dipping is fraud that will be prosecuted."

RAGONE has been employed with DSNY since May 2005 and receives an annual salary of nearly \$50,000.

DOI's investigation began after NYCERS notified DOI that RAGONE had filed a lost check affidavit regarding a pension loan check for \$3,680.

According to the criminal complaint, RAGONE filed an application in June 2008 for a loan against his City pension, NYCERS sent a check for \$3,680 to RAGONE on July 9, 2008 and RAGONE cashed the check at a Queens check cashing establishment on July 10, 2008. DOI's investigation also found that on July 25, 2008, RAGONE filed a sworn affidavit with NYCERS stating that he had not received that check. As a result, NYCERS issued RAGONE a supplemental check for \$1,340 in October 2008 and a check for \$3,680 in December 2008, both of which RAGONE cashed at a Queens check cashing establishment. DOI's investigation found that RAGONE did not have permission to cash either the supplemental or replacement checks since he had actually received and cashed the original pension loan check.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the New York City Employee Retirement System's Executive Director Diane D'Alessandro, DSNY Commissioner John J. Doherty, and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and their staffs for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Investigator Tara Benn, and supervised by Deputy Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, Inspector General Faisal Khan, and Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green.

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.**