



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release # 54-2006
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2006

CONTACT: CAROL STRICKLAND
(212) 825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS DPR EMPLOYEE FOR FORGING
PROOF OF JURY SERVICE TO EXCUSE WORK ABSENCES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of DONNA REMMEN, a Recreation Manager with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), for submitting a forged jury duty letter to DPR stating that she had served 13 days of jury duty when, in fact, she only served two days.

REMMEN, 53, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Fulfilling one's civic duty is a responsibility that deserves recognition. Lying about jury service in an attempt to be paid by the City for playing hooky from work is stealing and will lead to arrest and criminal prosecution. This is a foolish reason and way to ruin one's record."

REMMEN, a Recreation Manager employed by DPR for 19 years, at an annual salary of \$47,741 and assigned to the Fort Hamilton Senior Center, was scheduled to report for jury service in Kings County on November 30, 2005. REMMEN later presented to DPR a Juror's Proof of Service Certificate that purported to show she served jury duty for 13 days, between November 29, 2005 and December 27, 2005.

DOI began an investigation when the DPR Advocate's Office reported questions about the jury service documents that REMMEN had submitted. Investigators discovered that the Certificate purporting to be from the Kings County Clerk, Division of Jurors, was fraudulent -- the paper and font differed from those used by the Clerk's office, and the name of the County Clerk was omitted. The investigation revealed that REMMEN'S actual dates of jury service were only two days, November 30 and December 8, 2005. REMMEN was not paid for the other days when she was absent from work and not on jury duty.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DPR Commissioner Adrian Benepe and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green, DOI Deputy Inspector General for DPR Theresa Land-Latta and members of their staff, including, Chief Investigator Belarminia Ortiz and Confidential Investigator Nene Kodjoe.

This case is being prosecuted by the Kings County District Attorney's Office.

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 212-825-5959.*