



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION EMPLOYEE
ON CHARGES OF STEALING A DEP VEHICLE INSPECTION STICKER**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of NICHOLAS J. DISIMILE, an Auto Mechanic with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"), on charges that he illegally obtained an inspection sticker from a DEP vehicle and affixed it onto his personal vehicle. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI's investigation began after it was informed by a DEP supervisor that DISIMILE placed a DEP vehicle inspection sticker on the windshield of his own vehicle.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "By stealing and misusing an automobile inspection sticker, as charged, this employee tarnished his record and put his well-paid City job at risk."

DISIMILE, 46, of Douglaston, Queens, is charged with Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Official Misconduct, class A misdemeanors, and Issuing an Inspection Sticker Without a Proper Inspection, a violation of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, an unclassified misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year's incarceration.

DISIMILE has been employed by DEP for approximately six years, currently works in DEP's Fleet Services in Queens and receives an annual salary of approximately \$73,000.

According to the criminal complaint, on June 5, 2009, the DEP Director of Fleet Services observed a vehicle belonging to DISIMILE that bore a New York State inspection sticker that a DEP database indicated was originally affixed to a DEP vehicle. DOI's investigation found that DISIMILE did not have permission to use the inspection sticker, that DISIMILE found it on the floor of the DEP auto shop and that he placed it on his personal vehicle after it failed an inspection.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Acting Commissioner Steven W. Lawitts and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and their staffs, for their assistance in the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP Michael Carroll and members of his staff, including 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.