



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS FORMER HRA EMPLOYEE, 2 OTHERS, IN \$92K THEFT**  
**-- *Stole child support checks intended for custodial parents* --**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrests of CARLOS MARKS, a former Community Service Aide with the City's Human Resources Administration (HRA), and two others, MELISSA CASTILLO, and JAMAL WILLIAMS, for allegedly stealing and fraudulently negotiating 155 child support payment checks, totaling \$92,000, from HRA's Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE.)

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Stealing child-support money is a despicable abuse of the City's program to help children and families obtain financial support from absent parents. DOI is particularly gratified that we were able to arrest those responsible and ensure that they face justice."

MARKS, 35, formerly of Staten Island and currently a resident of Springfield, Massachusetts, arrested earlier this month, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the third degree and 25 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the second degree. CASTILLO, 24, of Staten Island, arrested yesterday, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the third degree and 46 counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the second degree. WILLIAMS, 35, was arrested earlier this year by DOI and agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service and charged with Identity Theft in the first degree, Grand Larceny in the third degree, and Scheme to Defraud. If convicted, each defendant faces up to 7 years in prison.

OCSE helps custodial parents – those living with and caring for their own children – obtain financial support for their children from non-custodial parents. OCSE is responsible for establishing the amount of child support obligations, collecting the support owed, and making payments to families.

DOI began its investigation in March 2005 after Citibank's Fraud Department notified HRA, which in turn notified DOI, that MARKS had deposited a large number of OCSE child support checks for which he was not the payee into his Citibank account.

DOI's investigation determined MARKS, while assigned to an HRA mailroom at 2 Washington Street in Manhattan, stole OCSE checks intended for custodial parents, deposited them into his Citibank account, and withdrew the money using automated teller machines (ATMs.) DOI also learned that MARKS used his HRA position to steal additional OCSE checks, which were deposited into Citibank accounts opened separately by CASTILLO and WILLIAMS. Both CASTILLO and WILLIAMS permitted and assisted MARKS to deposit the stolen checks into their

respective Citibank accounts and use debit cards to withdraw the money from ATMs. MARKS, in turn, compensated CASTILLO and WILLIAMS. In all, \$92,000 worth of child-support checks were stolen. Twenty-six checks totaling \$27,831 were deposited into MARKS'S account, 47 checks totaling \$40,730 were deposited into CASTILLO'S account, and 82 checks totaling \$23,438, were deposited into WILLIAMS'S account. The overall period in which the acts charged against the three defendants occurred is July 2004 through November 2005.

MARKS began with HRA as a temporary employee in August 2001, and became a full-time HRA Community Service Aide in September 2004 at a salary of \$21,795. He left HRA in August 2005 without notice and HRA terminated his employment in May 2006. CASTILLO is currently employed as a part-time clerk at the Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn. At the time of WILLIAMS'S arrest, he claimed to be homeless.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked HRA Commissioner Verna Eggleston and her staff and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Benjamin Defibaugh and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Caputo and Special Investigator Anthony DeLeo.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting MARKS and CASTILLO. The case against WILLIAMS is being prosecuted by the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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