



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS THREE IN THEFT OF PARKING FINES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City (City) Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of MARY SALAS and her associates, ARTHUR WRIGHT, and INELL BEATTY on felony charges of stealing money orders from a "lockbox" designated for the payment of New York City parking fines. SALAS, a clerk formerly employed by Selective Staffing where she was assigned to JP Morgan Chase's "lockbox" unit, is charged with stealing more than \$3,000. WRIGHT and BEATTY are each charged with stealing more than \$1,000.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Abusing one's position of trust to steal parking fines victimizes the innocent people trying to pay their debts. Fortunately, DOI stopped this heartless scam, and those responsible now face criminal prosecution and possibly jail. We intend to bring this matter to the attention of JP Morgan Chase to discuss with them security procedures in their 'lockbox' unit and ensure that thefts of not only the City's money but everyone else's are prevented."

SALAS, 34, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and Petit Larceny. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison. WRIGHT, 31 and BEATTY, 52, both of Brooklyn, have been charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and Petit Larceny. If convicted, they each face up to four years in jail. BEATTY has worked as a paraprofessional employee with the New York City Department of Education since 1993, with an annual salary of \$29,468.00.

DOI received a report that in 2004 SALAS had cashed a money order that had been purchased to pay City parking summonses. DOI's investigation revealed that SALAS worked as a temporary employee in JP Morgan Chase's lock box unit, where, under Chase's contract with the City, she was supposed to remove checks, money orders and summonses from envelopes and process them so that the payments would be applied to the proper summonses. Instead, SALAS is charged with using her position to steal numerous money orders. WRIGHT and BEATTY are charged with receiving some of the money orders that SALAS stole.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Finance Commissioner Martha E. Stark and members of her staff and the United States Postal Inspection Services for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Assistant Commissioner Robert Joyce, Inspector General Gia L. Morris, First Deputy Inspector General Maureen Thomas-Lewis, Special Investigator Dalila Cummings and Postal Inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the cases, which have been assigned to Deputy Bureau Chief Michael Ryan of the Rackets Bureau.

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.