



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS QUEENS GROCERY STORE EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES OF
STEALING \$2,425 FROM A CITY-ISSUED BAIL REFUND CHECK**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of RAFAEL ABREU, a Queens grocery store employee, on charges that he stole \$2,425 by depositing a City Department of Finance ("DOF") bail refund check with a forged endorsement into a business account and later withdrew the funds. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI began its investigation after it was notified by DOF that there were allegations of forgery involving a bail refund check.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "As this arrest shows, stealing funds from a City-issued check with a forged endorsement is a foolhardy crime that will be prosecuted."

ABREU, 50, of Queens, has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth 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 is punishable by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation found that ABREU accepted a \$2,425 DOF bail refund check from an individual who he knew was not the payee and who forged the payee's endorsement in his presence. The complaint further charges that ABREU deposited the check in his employer's business account and withdrew \$2,400 of the proceeds in three installments between April and May 2007.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DOF Acting Commissioner Michael Hyman and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown, and their staffs, for their assistance on this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the DOF, including Confidential Investigator Kristin Walunas, under the direction of Deputy Inspector General Jeffrey Dolcimascolo, Inspector General Faisal Khan, and Deputy Commissioner Vincent Green.

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.