



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS SANITATION WORKER FOR RECEIVING BRIBE

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the arrest today of City Department of Sanitation (DSNY) worker HAROLD PICKEL for allegedly accepting \$40 from an undercover investigator, posing as a worker at a Bronx apartment building, to collect and dispose of bulk and household trash.

PICKEL, 56, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony, and Receiving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison. PICKEL, earning a base salary of \$57,392 and assigned to Bronx West District 7 garage, has been suspended.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "It is against the law for City employees to accept any payment, or anything of value, other than their salaries, to do the job for which they were hired. DOI will continue to arrest and refer for criminal prosecution those City employees who attempt to line their own pockets at the City's expense."

DOI's investigation began after a building manager reported that DSNY workers refused to collect garbage in a Bronx neighborhood unless they were paid.

On June 9, 2006, an undercover investigator working with DOI and posing as an apartment building worker, met PICKEL and offered him a sum of money if he would take several rubber tires, along with other bulk and household trash for pick-up. According to the criminal complaint, PICKEL said, "I might be able to take one tire. I can't take six or seven. After PICKEL said, "Give me a number," the undercover investigator offered and paid PICKEL \$40 to take the bulk and household trash, and place them in the DSNY truck.

PICKEL was the third arrest in the past week of DSNY workers for taking bribes. On June 23, 2006, DOI announced that Robert Delgaudio and Edward Magdits were arrested and charged with Bribe Receiving after they accepted payments from DOI undercover investigators to remove commercial construction debris. (Release #60)

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DSNY Commissioner John Doherty and his staff for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General Office for DSNY, particularly Acting Deputy Inspector General Yves Desire, Special Investigators Thomas Spirakis and Alan Lefkof, and Confidential Investigator Charles Busch. The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

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