

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION FOR PADDING HER SALARY BY MORE THAN \$8,000 DURING A 13-MONTH PERIOD

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of a former Department of Correction (DOC) employee for using her access to the New York City Payroll Management System ("PMS") to add hours to her work week that she did not work. As a result, KEESHA WELLINGTON received over \$8,000 in unearned pay.

WELLINGTON, 31, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Computer Tampering in the Second Degree, a class D felony; Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor and Attempted Petit Larceny, a class B misdemeanor. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

WELLINGTON, who is currently a Child Protection Specialist with the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), worked for DOC from 2000 through 2007. Between 2005 and 2007, WELLINGTON worked in a position in which she input employee time records into PMS. City regulations prohibit employees from entering their own time records into the system.

DOI's investigation began after DOC became suspicious about WELLINGTON'S paycheck as she was leaving DOC in January 2007 to start a job at ACS. DOI's investigation determined that from December 2005 through January 2007 WELLINGTON used her ability to access PMS, adding hours to her work day, often doubling the amount of hours she purportedly worked in a single day. DOI's investigation determined that she added 569 hours over a 13-month period and as a result was paid \$8,664 for hours she never worked.

The DOI investigation also found that WELLINGTON allegedly attempted on several other occasions to add hours to her work day, but DOC stopped payment on those hours, which was valued at about \$557.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Individuals who think they can steal money from the City and taxpayers are mistaken. As these allegations show, DOI and the City will pursue individuals who try to scam the system. Those who choose to engage in this type of corruption risk arrest and possible jail time."

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOC Commissioner Martin F. Horn and his staff for their cooperation in this investigation.

These investigations were conducted by DOI Inspector General Meera Joshi Cattafesta and members of her staff, including Captain Vincent Valerio.

Assistant District Attorney Douglas Kaufman from the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case under the direction of Bureau Chief of Special Prosecutions Thomas Wornom.

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.