



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS PARALEGAL IN THEFT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR CHECKS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of DERRICKE BROWN, on charges of stealing and cashing four checks totaling \$3,800 from the New York County Public Administrator's (P.A.'s) Office while he was employed as a paralegal with a law firm that serves as Counsel to the P.A.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "The defendant is charged with abusing his position of trust to steal checks from a City office. Now he faces criminal charges and possibly jail for that ill-conceived conduct."

DERRICKE BROWN, 43, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

DOI's investigation revealed that in September and October 2002, BROWN, then employed as a paralegal with Bekerman & Reddy PC, a law firm in lower Manhattan that serves as Counsel to the New York County Public Administrator's (P.A.'s) Office, had access to an area inside the PA's Office at 31 Chambers Street where signed checks were placed temporarily for messenger-pickup and mailing. The P.A.'s chief accountant reported to DOI that four checks payable to an accountant and an estate beneficiary were missing and apparently had been stolen from that area. The P.A.'s office stopped payment on the checks, and DOI's investigation, which included tracing the checks and interviewing the individuals who had been involved in cashing them, resulted in BROWN's being identified as the person who had provided the checks, with forged endorsements of the payees, to be cashed. Yesterday, DOI investigators arrested BROWN, who in 2003 was dismissed from Bekerman & Reddy's employ.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County Public Administrator Ethel Griffin and members of her staff, including Counsel John Reddy, of Bekerman & Reddy PC, for their assistance and cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI investigators, particularly Assistant Inspector General Pamela Woolbright. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*