



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS NYCHA ELEVATOR MECHANIC AND MECHANICS HELPER

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of two NYCHA employees OWEN DIADEMA and KERRY MCKEON, both assigned to NYCHA's Elevator Division Office at Haber Houses, for allegedly filing false business records to reflect that they were repairing elevators in NYCHA developments and earning a full day's pay, when, in fact, they were shopping, repairing personal vehicles, or having an extended lunch hour.

DIADEMA, 38, of Brooklyn, and MCKEON, 45, of Staten Island, were arrested for Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, Petit Larceny, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, each will face a maximum of four years in prison.

DIADEMA and MCKEON, an Elevator Mechanic and an Elevator Helper (respectively), are responsible for repairing and maintaining NYCHA elevators. On four separate occasions, between February 18, 2005 and April 21, 2005, DOI investigators determined that DIADEMA and MCKEON had not conducted the elevator repairs that they reported to NYCHA. For example, on one occasion MCKEON was observed by DOI investigators working on his personal car from the hours of approximately 12:40 p.m. to 2:33 p.m., while he reported to NYCHA he was working on a NYCHA elevator at a another location during the hours of 12:30 through 3:30. On another occasion, DIADEMA and MCKEON were observed having lunch in a restaurant for over an hour when they are entitled only to ½ hour lunches. Further, after taking an hour lunch, DOI investigators observed MCKEON at Kohls Department Store for an additional hour. Meanwhile, records they submitted to NYCHA failed to reflect the extended lunch hour and had them working at a NYCHA location performing their duties. As a result of the defendants' above-referenced conduct, they were paid wages for which they were not entitled. DIADEMA defrauded NYCHA out of \$301.06, while MCKEON defrauded NYCHA out of \$307.22.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These defendants have learned that their elevator to an easy paycheck is stuck. They can no longer take long lunches or shop on the City's clock instead of repairing and maintaining elevators in City housing."

The investigation was conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, including Deputy Inspector General Steven Gruberger, Assistant Inspector General Irwin Shanberg, Special Investigator Charles Alexander and Confidential Investigator Luke Goldworm. The office of the Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is handling the case.

Criminal charges 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 directly at (212) 825-5959.

Note to Editors: Photos available