



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #83-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2010

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS SCOFFLAW CHARGED WITH OBTAINING A DRIVER'S LICENSE IN ANOTHER PERSON'S NAME

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that a motorist was arrested and charged with fraudulently obtaining a New York State driver's license and registering a 2004 Mercedes in another man's name after his own license was revoked. DOI investigated after a City marshal reported that two individuals each claimed ownership of the car, which had been towed for unpaid parking tickets, and that each presented a driver's license in the same name but with a different photo and signature. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Obtaining a driver's license in another person's name is a dangerous and foolish maneuver that invites arrest, criminal prosecution, and possibly a prison sentence."

REGGIE GIBBS, 32, of the Bronx, was charged with two counts each of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, class D felonies, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, Tampering with Public Records in the Second Degree, and Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years' imprisonment, a class E felony by up to four years' imprisonment, and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's investigation, which included a review of New York State Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV") records, revealed that in July 2009, in DMV's Bronx office, GIBBS filed an application for a driver's license in the name and with the forged signature of another man. GIBBS had his own photo taken, which was imprinted on the fraudulent license with the other man's name, date of birth, and license number. GIBBS is also charged with fraudulently registering and obtaining license plates for his 2004 Mercedes in the other driver's name.

DOI's investigation was initiated earlier this year, after the fraudulently-registered car was towed for more than \$350 in overdue parking tickets. A City marshal reported that two different individuals had come to the marshal's office in Queens, about two weeks apart, to claim personal property from the impounded car and that each man presented a driver's license bearing his own photo and signature but in the same name, which matched the name on the car's registration. The marshal's staff retained copies of both licenses and alerted DOI.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, DMV Commissioner David J. Swarts, and City Marshal Gary Rose and their staffs for their assistance in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney ("ADA") Alyssa A. Preston, of the Bronx District Attorney's Office, Investigations Division, is assigned to the prosecution, under the supervision of ADAs Juan Soto and Thomas D. Kapp, Chief of the Arson, Auto, and Economic Crime Bureau.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals and the DOI Investigative Squad.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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.

DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.