



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #87-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2008**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI STATEMENT ON THE SENTENCING OF A BRONX MAN TO SIX MONTHS IN JAIL
FOR STEALING FROM CITY PARKING METERS**

ARTHUR HENDERSON, 38, of the Bronx, was sentenced today in Bronx Supreme Court to six months in jail for breaking into and stealing coins from more than two dozen free-standing parking meters in the Bronx and was also ordered to repay the City \$1,846, which covers the amount of stolen coins and the value of the broken coin boxes and locks.

The New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") arrested HENDERSON in June and July 2008 as part of a multi-agency investigation with the City Department of Transportation's Bureau of Parking, Internal Security and Special Investigations Unit ("ISU"), the Bronx District Attorney's Office and the New York City Police Department's Technical Assistance Response Unit ("TARU"). The office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson prosecuted the case, which was assigned to Assistant District Attorney James Cudden of the Rackets Bureau.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Breaking into City parking meters won't make you rich but will make you known to City investigators. Stealing City funds put this defendant on a road that leads to the City jail. DOI thanks its law enforcement partners for working with us in this case to protect the taxpayers' money."

In June 2008, HENDERSON was charged with using a homemade key that same month to break into a parking meter and remove the collection can, which contained \$20 in coins. The meter was under surveillance by investigators of the New York City Department of Transportation. Earlier this month, HENDERSON pleaded guilty to Petit Larceny, a class A misdemeanor, in connection with that crime and was sentenced today to time served.

In July 2008, HENDERSON was charged with using homemade keys to break into free-standing meters to take approximately \$1,420 in coins from more than 26 containers between April and December 2007 in the Parkchester area of the Bronx. The replacement value of the containers is estimated at more than \$260 each. HENDERSON pleaded guilty earlier this month to Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, in connection with this incident and was sentenced today to six months in jail.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan and Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and their staffs, especially DOT's ISU and the Police Department's TARU Unit, for their assistance in this investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for his office's assistance in the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOT Mary T. Piechocki, and members of her staff, including First Deputy Inspector General John M. Bellanie, Special Investigators Omar Sarach and Kenneth McGrail, and Investigator Alison Bonfoey.

Members of DOT-ISU also participated, including Administrative Investigator John Regan and Investigator Corey Gibbons.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.