

The City of New York Department of Investigation

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COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS CITY EMPLOYEE FOR STEALING A U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and WILLIAM KEZER, Postal Inspector-In-Charge for Queens Office of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, announced today the arrest of SHARON WILLIAMS, an employee of the New York City Human Resources Administration, for stealing and cashing a U.S. Postal Service money order worth \$700.

WILLIAMS, 47, an HRA clerk who lives and works in Queens, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree, a 'D' Felony; Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, also a 'D' Felony; Petit Larceny and Criminal Solicitation in the Second Degree, both Class 'A' Misdemeanors. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in jail. She has worked for HRA since 1987.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service began its investigation after a city welfare client reported that the \$700 postal money order (with no payee) she had submitted to HRA to be copied for her case file had not been returned. Investigators determined that WILLIAMS allegedly stole the \$700 money order. She directed her boyfriend to cash the money order and subsequently used the \$700 for personal expenses.

The Office of Richard A. Brown, Queens County District Attorney, will handle this case with Assistant District Attorney Christine Burke prosecuting. This investigation was conducted jointly by Postal Inspector-In-Charge William Kezer and members of his staff, including Postal Inspector Ana Bourdon, along with DOI's Acting Inspector General for HRA Benjamin W. Defibaugh and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General José Ramos.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.