



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DEFENDANT SENTENCED TO PRISON IN \$2.6 MILLION THEFT SCHEME EXPOSED BY DOI

MARK G. PETERS, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of a former bookkeeper from the office of the Kings County Public Administrator ("KCPA") to six to 18 years in prison for his role in the theft of \$2.6 million as part of a forged check-and-larceny scheme that targeted seven decedents' estates between 2008 and 2011. RICHARD PAUL, 36, of Brooklyn, was convicted in November 2013 of First Degree Grand Larceny and Defrauding the Government. DOI initiated an investigation into the matter after the Kings County Public Administrator reported that he found one forged check. While pursuing the investigation to determine the extent of the scheme, DOI joined with the office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., which prosecuted the case. Seven other defendants have also been convicted for their participation in the theft scheme.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This defendant used death as an opportunity to steal millions. Today's sentence shows such crime leads to prison. DOI traced the funds and unraveled this complex fraud scheme in partnership with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office."

Commissioner Peters thanks New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., City Department of Finance Commissioner Beth E. Goldman, Kings County Public Administrator Bruce Stein, and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation. DOI also received assistance and cooperation from, among others, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, TD Bank, Capital One, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, the Municipal Credit Union, the CompuTrust Software Corp., and Dega Systems.

The investigation was conducted by DOI.

Assistant District Attorneys Brian P. Weinberg and Joseph Vizcarrondo of the New York County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case, assisted by Senior Investigative Counsel Thomas Mooney and Trial Preparation Assistant Sara Dennis, under the supervision of Daniel D. Brownell, Chief of the Rackets Bureau, and Daniel G. Cort, Chief of the Public Integrity Unit.

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.

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