



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #29-2015
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2015

CONTACT: DIANESTRUZZI
212-825-5931

DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN ON CHARGES OF PLACING A FALSE 911 CALL THAT PROMPTED NEARLY A DOZEN EMERGENCY PERSONNEL TO RESPOND

MARK G. PETERS, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of an Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") formerly employed by the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") on charges of placing a false emergency call that led to nearly a dozen emergency personnel responding, specifically two FDNY ambulances, an FDNY fire truck, and the NYPD. DOI initiated its investigation after receiving allegations from FDNY about a false 911 call. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "Fabricating a high-priority emergency call is a crime that diminishes resources available to respond to other serious calls. As charged, this defendant selfishly created a crisis and undermined public safety as a result."

WILLIAM MEDINA, 27, of New York, N.Y., was charged today with Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree and Falsely Reporting an Incident in the Third Degree, all class A misdemeanors. If convicted, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, on August 19, 2015, the defendant completed a patient transport in Queens when his unit was assigned to respond to a sick child with a possible high fever in Brooklyn. The investigation determined that, in an attempt to remain in Queens, the defendant used a payphone in Queens to place a 911 call for a higher priority cardiac arrest stating that a man at the intersection of 74th Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Queens was not breathing and could possibly be dead. However, the defendant's unit was not reassigned, continued to the call in Brooklyn, and in Queens was flagged down in progress for a sick individual. Another unit ultimately responded to the sick child. As a result of the phony cardiac arrest emergency call emergency personnel were called to the scene and found no male in distress. DOI reviewed GPS records from the defendant's ambulance, interviewed witnesses, and examined area security video, among other investigative steps. Security video showed the defendant exiting his ambulance and approaching the pay phone where the fake 911 call was placed.

MEDINA began employment as an EMT in October 2014 and was receiving an annual salary of \$31,931 when he resigned in late August 2015 during this investigation.

more

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and FDNY Commissioner Daniel A. Nigro, and their staffs, including FDNY's Bureau of Investigations and Trials ("BITS"), for their assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's office of the Inspector General for FDNY, under the supervision of Inspector General Frank J. Carine, Associate Commissioner Paul Cronin, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Lesley Brovner.

The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney James M. Liander, Chief of the Queens County District Attorney's Integrity Bureau.

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 and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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 strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
See Something Crooked in NYC? Report Corruption at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**