

The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS COMMISSIONER

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DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES OF SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a New York City Department of Homeless Services ("DHS") Housing Specialist on charges that he engaged in sexual misconduct on several occasions with shelter residents both at the Auburn Family Shelter in Brooklyn and off-site. The office of Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This employee preyed on vulnerable New Yorkers: using his position to sexually exploit the very shelter residents whom he was supposed to assist, according to the charges. Disturbing sexual misconduct by a City employee is inexcusable and cannot be tolerated."

Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, "This defendant allegedly abused his position of authority to exploit some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Such conduct is not only criminal, but offensive and unacceptable. We will now seek to hold him accountable for his actions."

CLYDE JOHNSON, 54, of Queens, N.Y., was arrested and charged late Monday, December 4, 2017, with five counts of Forcible Touching, a class A misdemeanor; and four counts each of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor; and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to one year's incarceration, a class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to three months' incarceration, and a violation is punishable by up to fifteen days' incarceration.

JOHNSON was arraigned in Brooklyn Criminal Court this morning where bail was set at \$8,000 and his next court date is scheduled for December 8, 2017. To protect the victims in this case, two orders of protection have been issued.

JOHNSON has worked for DHS as a Community Coordinator and Housing Specialist since July 2015 and earns an annual salary of approximately \$57,916. DHS has suspended JOHNSON.

According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, the four charged incidents in Brooklyn took place in April 2017 and July 2017, with two instances taking place at the Auburn Family Shelter, 39 Auburn Place; a third instance taking place on Myrtle Avenue, and a fourth instance taking place on a moving bus in Brooklyn. In these incidents, JOHNSON allegedly made sexual advances against two women who were shelter residents and touched them inappropriately.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Steven Banks, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, which oversees the Department of Homeless Services, and Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Homeless Services, specifically Assistant Inspector General Octavia Hill, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Constance Gonzalez, with assistance from Special Investigator Gladys Quizhpi, Special Investigator Jeremy Reyes, Deputy Inspector General Margaret Shivers and Investigator Nils Graham, and overall supervision by Inspector General Milton Yu, Special Associate Commissioner Susan Lambiase, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll, and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner, and assistance from NYPD Detectives assigned to DOI.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Brooklyn District Attorney, specifically Assistant District Attorney Miss Gregory, Chief of the Special Victims 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.