



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **DOI ARRESTS BRONX RESIDENT ON A CHARGE OF STEALING MORE THAN \$50,000 IN CITY PENSION FUNDS**

Daniel G. Cort, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest today of a Bronx resident on a charge of stealing more than \$52,000 in pension checks issued by the New York City Employees' Retirement System ("NYCERS") to a deceased pensioner. The alleged crime took place from November 2015 to May 2018. DOI began investigating after examining NYCERS' records to identify potentially deceased pensioners, an investigation that is ongoing. Since the start of this investigation, NYCERS has contracted with vendors that provide death record databases so it can regularly review its records against those databases. DOI worked in partnership with the Office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, which obtained the indictment in this case, and is prosecuting the matter.

KIMBERLY SCARBOROUGH, 54, of the Bronx, N.Y. is charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Acting Commissioner Daniel Cort said, "The City pension system represents City employees' hard work to provide for their retirement and its pensioners must be protected from fraudsters who pose as deceased pension members in order to steal funds from the system. It is good news that NYCERS has implemented regular checks for pensioners who are deceased and DOI continues to work with NYCERS to strengthen the agency's internal controls. DOI will also continue to work with the Manhattan District Attorney to expose and stop this type of charged conduct as well as hold accountable those individuals who seek to corrupt the pension system."

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said, "Thefts from the pension system eat away at funds promised to hard-working City employees. Public servants deserve to know that they will be able to support themselves after retirement without fear that bad actors are draining the pension benefits they are owed. My Office, working together with the Department of Investigation, is committed to preserving the integrity of this critical system by holding those who steal benefits accountable."

According to the indictment and DOI's investigation, between November 2015 and May 2018, the defendant received deposits into her bank account totaling approximately \$52,368.65 in payments that were unauthorized to be deposited into the defendant's account and were intended for a New York City pensioner who had died in October 2015. This money was largely withdrawn in cash by the defendant from a joint bank account she owned with the deceased pensioner or was transferred to other bank accounts owned by the defendant. Material submitted to NYCERS after October 2015 was signed by the defendant, and indicated that the pensioner was still alive and that payments should continue to be made, even though the pensioner was already deceased and the payments should have ceased upon his death. Generally, City pensions cease upon a pensioner's death unless there is a designated beneficiary. The defendant and deceased pensioner were joint owners of a bank account and their exact relationship is not known.

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Acting Commissioner Cort thanked Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg for his and his staff's partnership on the investigation of this matter; and he also thanked NYCERS Executive Director Melanie Whinnery and Financial Information Services Agency Executive Director Neil Matthew, and their staffs, for their agencies' cooperation in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorneys Kelly Thomas and Andrew Joyce of the Manhattan District Attorney's Financial Frauds Bureau are prosecuting the matter.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCERS, specifically Special Investigator Alina Zhelizna, under the supervision of Deputy Inspectors General David Jordan and Meenal Raman, Inspector General Ann Petterson, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella, and Acting First Deputy Commissioner Philip Hung.

An indictment 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.*

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