



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
ERIC LENKOWITZ
(212) 825-5931

CITY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKER CHARGED WITH EXPOSING HIMSELF TO A PARENT HE WAS INVESTIGATING

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest yesterday, May 31, 2023, of a Child Protective Specialist (“CPS”) for the City Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”) on charges of exposing himself to a parent he was investigating, during two home visits in 2021. ACS reported the allegations to DOI, which investigated the claims. The Queens District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

HAROLD LATOUR, 59, of Springfield Gardens, N.Y., was charged Wednesday, May 31, 2023, with two counts of Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration and a violation by up to 15 days. LATOUR was arraigned Wednesday evening in Queens Criminal Court and released on his own recognizance by Judge Marty J. Lentz.

Commissioner Strauber said, “As charged, this City Child Protective Specialist used his access to vulnerable families as an opportunity to engage in illegal and sexually inappropriate conduct on more than one occasion. His predatory conduct compromised the difficult and complex work of ACS and his CPS colleagues, whose priority is protecting children and families. I thank the Queens District Attorney’s Office for prosecuting this case, and the ACS staff who promptly informed DOI of the allegations.”

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said, “This defendant was entrusted with securing the safety of children and working with families. Sadly, he violated that trust and is accused of exposing himself not once, but twice during home visits. The defendant now faces very serious charges. I want to thank the Department of Investigation for their diligence examining this case.”

LATOUR’S duties and responsibilities included making home visits in connection with child welfare investigations. According to the criminal complaint, he made such a visit on October 6, 2021, in the Maspeth section of Queens, while investigating allegations against a mother. LATOUR wore basketball shorts to the visit and was not wearing underwear when he sat down on the couch across from the woman, exposing himself to her, the complaint alleges.

LATOUR returned for another home visit on November 17, 2021, even though the mother had requested a virtual meeting. During the visit, according to the complaint, LATOUR again wore basketball shorts, exposing himself to her, this time while seated in her kitchen.

The mother reported both incidents to ACS on November 18, 2021, saying, among other things, that she feared for her safety. ACS notified DOI about the allegations. During DOI’s investigation, LATOUR was

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placed on modified duty and had no further contact with children or their families. LATOUR, an ACS employee since June 2011 with an annual salary of approximately \$64,000, is currently on leave without pay.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz and her staff for their collaboration in and prosecution of this investigation, which is being handled by Public Corruption Bureau Deputy Chief Christine Oliveri and Public Corruption Bureau Chief Khadijah Muhammad-Starling. Commissioner Strauber also thanked ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser and his staff for their cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, specifically, Assistant Inspector General Alexandra Davie and Assistant Inspector General Octavia Hill, under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

If you have experienced, or are aware of, similar conduct in connection with a home visit by a CPS worker, you can report the allegations to DOI at (212) 825-5920 or on our website at <https://a032-secure.nyc.gov/p/ofcomplaint.html>.

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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