



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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PLEASE NOTE CORRECTION: INITIAL PRESS RELEASE INCLUDED AN INCORRECT LAST NAME FOR THE SUBJECT. HER CORRECT NAME IS MELONIE SOSA.

**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO FORMER CITY CORRECTION OFFICER CHARGED WITH
SUBMITTING FALSE DOCUMENTS TO STEAL \$9,332 IN SICK TIME**

Christopher Ryan, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of a former Correction Officer with the New York City Department of Correction ("DOC") Thursday on charges of submitting fraudulent medical notes in order to collect approximately \$9,332 in sick pay. DOI's investigation was prompted by a report from DOC's Health Management Division ("HMD"). DOI investigated this matter with the Queens District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting the case.

MELONIE SOSA, 42, of West Babylon, N.Y. was charged with one count each of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony. SOSA was also charged with twenty-six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year incarceration. SOSA was arraigned late Thursday and released on her own recognizance. Her next court date is March 2, 2026.

Acting DOI Commissioner Christopher Ryan said, "This defendant is charged with defrauding the City and its taxpayers of thousands of dollars in sick time by submitting falsified medical documentation to the City Department of Correction. The seriousness of this alleged conduct is heightened by the staffing crisis DOC faced during the time of the charged crimes. I thank DOC for reporting the allegations to DOI and the Queens District Attorney's Office for their partnership and commitment to protect City resources."

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said: "This defendant allegedly skirted her important duties as a correction officer by filing false documents to secure sick leave. City workers have an obligation to their employers, and to the public, to conduct themselves with integrity. Those who don't will be held responsible. I thank our partners at the New York City Department of Investigation for their work on this case."

According to the criminal complaint, between April 2021 and April 2022, SOSA submitted twenty-six medical notes to DOC's HMD claiming that she was treated at various medical facilities, specifically two physical therapy facilities, a dental practice and a medical practice, for a total of 25 days. The investigation found that the notes submitted had not been generated by the medical practices for the defendant. As a result of these submissions, the defendant was paid \$9,332 in sick leave that she was not entitled to receive.

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SOSA began employment at DOC in April 2007 and was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$98,155 at the time of her retirement in October 2023.

Acting Commissioner Ryan thanked Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz and her staff for their partnership on this investigation, which was handled by Assistant District Attorney Yong Kim of the Public Corruption Bureau. Acting Commissioner Ryan also thanked DOC for its assistance and cooperation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Correction Officer Investigators Anthony Palmer and Matty Lupinacci with DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the DOC and was supervised by Inspector General Marissa Carro and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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.

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