



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #15-2026
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026**

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**NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS ELECTRICIAN CHARGED WITH STEALING HIGH-GRADE COPPER WIRE
FROM SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH AND SELLING IT FOR MORE THAN \$63,000
--Defendant received approximately \$254,000 in wages in 2025--**

Nadia I. Shihata, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), in partnership with Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced the arrest today of an NYC Health + Hospitals ("NYC H+H") electrician who was employed at South Brooklyn Health on charges of stealing high-grade copper wire belonging to NYC H+H and selling it, receiving more than \$63,000. DOI began investigating this matter upon a report from NYC H+H that the defendant was seen removing boxes and bags from the South Brooklyn Health facility. DOI investigated this matter with NYC H+H Police and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, which is prosecuting the case.

IQBAL BACCHUS, 46, of Richmond Hill, N.Y., was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony; and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration. BACCHUS was arraigned this afternoon and released on his own recognizance.

DOI Commissioner Nadia I. Shihata said, "Notwithstanding his earning more than \$250,000 in 2025, this City employee allegedly chose to exploit his access to an expensive industrial metal owned by NYC Health + Hospitals, stealing and then selling it for his own personal gain, pocketing more than \$63,000, according to the charges. Misconduct by City employees undermines the public's trust in all City employees, the vast majority of whom are committed to integrity and public service. I thank the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office and NYC Health + Hospitals for their partnership in exposing theft from the City."

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, "Despite being highly compensated, this defendant allegedly repeatedly exploited his access to a NYC H+H facility to steal high-grade copper and sell it to a scrap company. There is no tolerance for this type of abuse and theft within City government, and we will now seek to hold the defendant accountable for his alleged criminal actions. I commend NYC H+H and the Department of Investigation for their work on this case."

Mitchell Katz, MD, President and CEO of NYC Health + Hospitals said, "We notified the Department of Investigation when we discovered the theft, and are grateful for their assistance in this matter."

According to the criminal complaint, at various times between March 29, 2025, through March 27, 2026, video surveillance showed the defendant stripping down cut copper wire and one occasion placing it into a backpack inside a room at South Brooklyn Hospital. Video surveillance of South Brooklyn Hospital's loading dock also showed the defendant on numerous occasions loading items into a white vehicle while the vehicle was standing in the loading dock. The defendant was not authorized to bring this vehicle into the loading dock nor was the defendant authorized to remove copper wire from South Brooklyn Hospital.

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Based on records from a scrap and metal company, the investigation found that the defendant sold copper wire to that company on 47 separate occasions and received over \$63,000 for those sales between March 2025 and March 2026. In addition, on at least one occasion, the defendant was observed on video surveillance at the scrap and metal company selling wire to that company and arriving in the same white vehicle observed at the hospital.

BACCHUS began employment with NYC H+H in October 2019 and became an electrician with South Brooklyn Health in July 2022. He receives an hourly wage of approximately \$70 and in 2025 received annual earnings of \$254,176. As a result of this investigation, BACCHUS was suspended earlier this month.

Commissioner Shihata thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and the Brooklyn District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau for their partnership on this investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Adam S. Libove, Chief of the District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Jordan Krasner of the District Attorney's Investigation/Fraud Bureau. Commissioner Shihata also thanked Dr. Mitchell Katz, President and Chief Executive Office of NYC H+H; Svetlana Lipyanskaya, South Brooklyn Health CEO; and Vincent Martinos, Chief of Hospital Police, for their collaboration and assistance on this investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Deputy Inspector General Robin Womack and Senior Confidential Investigator Steven Rubin of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYC H+H, under the supervision of Inspector General Cornelius Clancy, Acting Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Audrey Feldman and Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan.

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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