



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**DOI ARRESTS FIREFIGHTER ON CHARGE OF STEALING \$6,500 OF MILITARY LEAVE PAY**

Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") announced today the arrest of BRIAN FERRERA, a Firefighter employed by the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), for misrepresenting he was on military leave between February and March 2008 and receiving military leave pay he was not entitled to collect.

FERRERA, 30, of Valley Stream N.Y., was charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony and if convicted faces up to seven years in prison. He has been employed with the FDNY since 2004, is assigned to Ladder 18 in Manhattan and receives an annual salary of approximately \$57,000.

DOI's investigation began after it was notified by the FDNY that there were questions about the veracity of whether FERRERA was actually on military duty.

According to the arrest charges, DOI's investigation found that from February 18, 2008 to March 28, 2008, FERRERA told his supervisors at the FDNY that he had recently enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. As a result, the FDNY granted FERRERA paid military leave, and he received approximately \$6,500 in pay and benefits for approximately 240 hours of military leave. DOI's investigation found that FERRERA had failed to enlist in any branch of the military and was not entitled to those funds.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Fabricating a story of military service to garner unearned paid leave is a cynical abuse of a benefit intended for the City's true citizen soldiers. It amounts to fraud and a theft from the taxpayers and is being dealt with as such."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and his staff for their assistance and cooperation in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY; the case has been referred to the office of the Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Arrest charges are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. 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.*

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.**  
**To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**