



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2002

2 BROOKLYN WOMEN ARRESTED IN THEFT OF TLC LICENSING CHECKS *-- Stole & Cashed Nearly \$2,000 In Licensee Renewal Money Orders --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ELIZABETH MUNGO, a former temporary employee of JP Morgan Chase Bank (Chase), for stealing 13 money orders, totaling \$1,990, processed by Chase on behalf of the Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC), and unlawfully cashing 2 of them. Also arrested was JOLETHA HENDRICKSEN, who unlawfully cashed 11 of the 13 money orders at various check cashing services in Brooklyn.

MUNGO was among more than 100 clerks employed by Chase at a "lockbox unit," whose jobs were to process checks and money orders payable to various City agencies and departments for fees and charges associated with matters like license renewals, parking fines, and metered water usage.

The investigation began in April 2001, when the director of TLC's Licensing Division notified DOI that a TLC licensed driver reported that he had not received his renewal license although his \$120 money order had been cashed. TLC uses the Chase lockbox unit to process between 60,000 and 65,000 licenses and license renewals each year, generating more than \$20.5 million in revenue.

The investigation disclosed that over a 6-month period, from December 2000 to May 2001, MUNGO had allegedly taken 13 money orders sent in to the TLC by various TLC license holders, in amounts ranging from \$120 to \$550. She cashed 2 of the money orders at a Brooklyn Post Office branch, and gave 11 of the money orders, totaling \$1,750, to a friend who, in turn, gave them to HENDRICKSEN. HENDRICKSEN then cashed the 11 money orders at various check cashing establishments in Brooklyn, including a C-Town supermarket and a Post Office branch. MUNGO received half of the cash proceeds, with the remaining half being split between her friend and HENDRICKSEN.

MUNGO, 29, of 55 Monument Walk in Brooklyn, had worked as a temporary employee at Chase, placed there by Adecco Employment Services, from November 2000 to June 2001. She has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E felony, punishable by up to 4 years in prison. HENDRICKSEN, 43, of 48 Fleet Walk, also in Brooklyn, was charged with Forgery in the Second Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted, she faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn expressed her sincere appreciation to TLC Commissioner Matthew Daus, and members of his staff, and to John Devereux, vice president of Chase's Fraud Prevention & Investigation Department, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

2 Bklyn Women Arrested In Theft Of TLC Licensing Checks

The investigation was conducted by John McMahon, DOI's Inspector General for TLC, and members of his staff, including Special Investigators Tim Crowe and Frank Smith, and Confidential Investigator Jayme Naberezny.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Peter Kolp is handling the matter.