



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CITY MARSHAL'S CLERK FOR EMBEZZLING \$171,483

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of MARCIA SKEFFERY, who is charged with stealing approximately \$171,483 from City Marshal Ruth Burko in a 19-month-long embezzlement scheme. According to the charges, SKEFFERY skimmed cash paid by owners of towed cars at the Marshal's office in the Bronx, where SKEFFERY worked as a clerk. SKEFFERY is also charged with concealing the theft by falsifying Marshal Burko's records and using some car owners' payments to replace money she previously stole from others' payments.

MARCIA SKEFFERY, 31, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Falsifying Business records, and Offering a False instrument for Filing. If convicted, SKEFFERY faces up to 15 years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after Marshal Burko reported that "redemption" money, payments made by car owners to redeem towed vehicles, was missing and had not been forwarded to the Department of Finance ("DOF"). DOI investigators discovered that SKEFFERY took approximately \$171,483 from about 296 vehicle owners and did not deposit those payments in Marshal Burko's accounts or send them to DOF. She also forwarded payments to DOF several weeks behind schedule. DOF has credited all of the vehicle owners whose parking fine payments were stolen, about \$89,000 of the \$171,483 that was stolen. Marshal Burko is reimbursing DOF for the stolen parking fine payments.

SKEFFERY worked in Marshal Burko's office at 38 Westchester Square and was responsible for receiving and recording payments, issuing receipts, depositing collected money in the marshal's official bank account, and preparing checks to DOF to pay the car owners' parking fines. Her employment was terminated in September 2003.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This marshal's employee is charged with stealing a tremendous amount of money, but she stands to lose much more than she may have gained. SKEFFERY's actions do not represent the hard-working, honest marshals who have been appointed to serve this City."

The investigation was conducted jointly by Special Investigator Caroline Tang-Alejandro of DOI's Bureau of City Marshals, Detective Vinessa Toyer of DOI's Squad of New York City Police Department Detectives and the office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson. Assistant District Attorney Earamichia N. Brown is prosecuting.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOF Commissioner Martha E. Stark and her staff for their assistance in this case.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations, and defendants are presumed innocent unless convicted in Court.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.