



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
100 Church Street · 20th Floor
New York · New York 10007
Tel. (212) 676-6219 · Fax (212) 676-6204

Michael J. Mansfield
Commissioner/Chair

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday February 3, 2009

www.nyc.gov/html/bic

CONTACT: ERIC DORSCH,
GENERAL COUNSEL
(212) 676- 6202

**THE BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION'S CONTINUED INITIATIVE TO
COMBAT RECYCLABLES THEFT NETS TWO MORE CARDBOARD THIEVES**

New York City Business Integrity Commission Commissioner Michael J. Mansfield announced today that the Commission's on-going initiative to combat the theft of recyclables has resulted in the arrest of two individuals. On January 28, 2010, Commission investigators apprehended Felix Rey and Henry Vergara for stealing cardboard from the front of 1313 3rd Avenue in Manhattan. Criminal charges were brought against both defendants for operating a trade waste business without a license.

Commissioner Mansfield stated, "Since the Commission's last enforcement initiative, and with the cooperation of the local recyclables transfer stations, there had been a marked decrease in reports by licensed haulers of recyclables theft. With the recent upsurge in the price of commodities, and cardboard in particular, the Commission has again utilized the criminal sanctions at its disposal to address this significant problem. The Commission also wants to remind the transfer stations that it is a violation of the law to accept recyclables from a carter that is not properly licensed."

All commercial establishments must contract with a licensed trade waste hauler for removal of their recyclables, including cardboard. As the economy has improved and the price of cardboard has surged, recently reaching 75 dollars per ton, incidents of cardboard theft have begun to increase. Such theft is of great concern to the Commission as it deprives legitimate and licensed trade waste haulers of much needed revenue and presents a serious challenge to their continued economic viability.

The investigation was conducted by Investigator Jesse Strauss and Sanitation Police Officer Jeffery Makhmaltchi under the supervision of Lt. Christopher Mahon.

The cases against the two defendants are being prosecuted by the Office of the New York County District Attorney. The defendants next appear in court on March 31, 2010. The defendants have also been issued administrative violations for operating a trade waste business without a license.

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