



The City of New York
BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION
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Michael J. Mansfield
Commissioner/Chair

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CARTER SENTENCED TO ONE AND ONE THIRD TO FOUR YEARS
IMPRISONMENT IN CONNECTION WITH FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS
SUBMITTED TO THE BUSINESS INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Michael J. Mansfield, Commissioner of the New York City Business Integrity Commission (“BIC”), joined by Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. announced that the owner of a Staten Island-based carting company surrendered today to the Ulster Correctional Facility to begin serving a one and one third to four year prison sentence after pleading guilty to falsifying business records in the first degree, a class E felony.

The defendant, VINCENZO GRASSO, 43, had previously pleaded guilty on November 6, 2009 in Richmond County Supreme Court and was sentenced before Judge Leonard Rienzi on April 23, 2010. He admitted that in a customer register submitted to BIC, he underreported the number of customers his company, Downtown Environmental Recycling, Inc. serviced. BIC previously suspended Downtown Environmental Recycling, Inc.’s trade waste removal license on December 3, 2008 and permanently stripped the company of its license on March 18, 2010.

GRASSO was initially investigated as part of an inquiry by BIC into stolen metal waste containers in Brooklyn. Those containers were later found in use by the defendant’s company, having been repainted at his Staten Island headquarters. In an attempt to conceal his illegal activity, investigators determined that the defendant knowingly submitted false documents to BIC in the form of a customer register, which concealed the true number of customers, employees, and trucks involved in his business.

BIC Commissioner Mansfield stated, “this prosecution demonstrates the significant consequences of intentionally submitting false information to a city agency. In addition to criminal sanctions, the defendant and his company were permanently denied the authority to conduct business in the City of New York. I want to thank District Attorney Daniel Donovan and his staff for their diligent efforts to bring this matter to a successful conclusion.”

District Attorney Donovan stated, “We are glad to work with our law enforcement partners at the BIC to investigate and prosecute businesses which engage in illegal activities of this type. Let the message be clear, the criminal penalties and business sanctions for these crimes are simply not worth the risk.”

The case against GRASSO was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Jeffrey Curiale, of the Investigations Bureau. The investigation was conducted by Detective Angelo Barone and Detective Billy Martin of the Organized Crime Investigation Division, under supervision of Sergeant John Sondey and the overall supervision of Inspector Brian O’Neill, working in direct conjunction with BIC’s Investigators Michael Quinn, Jesse Strauss and Lt. Christopher Mahon. Administrative proceedings were conducted by David Mandell, Deputy General Counsel for BIC.

BIC is both a regulatory and law enforcement agency. It consists of the Commissioner/Chair and the Commissioners of the New York City Police Department, the New York City Department of Investigation, the New York City Department of Sanitation, the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs, and the New York City Department of Small Business Services, with the Commissioner/Chair having administrative management over the agency. In November 2001, a charter revision measure created the Organized Crime Control Commission, which was later renamed BIC, to consolidate under one agency the regulatory jurisdiction over the private carting industry, businesses operating in the City's public wholesale markets, and the shipboard gambling industry. The mission of BIC is to eliminate organized crime and other forms of corruption and criminality from the industries it regulates. BIC’s goals are numerous: to ensure that the regulated businesses are able to compete fairly; that the marketplaces remain free from violence, fraud, rackets, and threats; that customers receive fair treatment; and that the businesses which are allowed to operate in these industries always conduct their affairs with honesty and integrity.