



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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COMMISSIONER



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## **DOI ESTABLISHES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT TO EXPAND OVERSIGHT OF THE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ON FRAUD, WASTE AND CORRUPTION ISSUES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the creation of a new, six-person unit to investigate fraud, waste and corruption issues at the City Board of Elections (“BOE”). DOI requested and obtained the funding for the unit in the wake of its report issued earlier this month documenting BOE’s overspending of more than \$2.4 million of City funds by its questionable decision not to consolidate election districts in the November 2011 off-year election, despite being called upon not to waste funds in advance of that election. That report can be found at the following link: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/2013/apr13/pr12boerpt\\_40113.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/2013/apr13/pr12boerpt_40113.pdf). While the BOE is created by State law and is not under the supervision of the Mayor, DOI has jurisdiction to investigate matters pertaining to the BOE because it is funded by the City, and its employees are City employees. Last fiscal year the BOE received \$84.7 million in City-funding. The new, much-needed investigative unit will allow DOI to focus with consistency on the BOE and investigate any fraud, waste or corruption issues; present corruption prevention lectures to BOE staff for deterrent purposes; and remedy corruption vulnerabilities exposed by DOI investigations.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “DOI’s recent labor-intensive investigation of the November 2011 off-year election, wherein DOI found that millions of City tax dollars were wasted, demonstrates the need for greater accountability of the BOE and the need for more resources at DOI to conduct such investigations. The newly created unit will provide the capacity to investigate possible waste, fraud and corruption in an expanded way that was not possible before. The Mayor recognized that the BOE needed consistent investigative oversight and responded by providing DOI with the necessary funds to more regularly oversee the BOE’s activities.”

DOI will receive approximately \$824,000 for a six-person investigative unit. DOI has already begun moving forward on filling those positions. Over the past decade, DOI investigations have led to the creation of other specified investigative units, including for the Housing Development Corporation and the Not-for-Profit/Vendor Fraud Unit. Those units were created to address oversight gaps, as is the case with the BOE, and to promote DOI’s mission to expose and stop corruption involving City government and safeguard City funds.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanks Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mark Page, Director of the City Office of Management and Budget, for their action in this matter and for the resources to establish this investigative unit.

*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.*

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