



The City of New York
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Release #39-2013
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2013**

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DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF FORMER CITY VENDOR ON THEFT AND FRAUD CHARGES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on the arrest today of a business owner charged with stealing more than \$149,000 from the New York City Fire Department (“FDNY”) by falsifying more than 300 invoices for labor and materials his company supposedly provided to maintain and repair air conditioners and refrigeration and heating equipment at FDNY facilities. DOI’s investigation resulted in criminal charges filed today against JUSTIN LEVY and his company, the Just Cooling Corporation. DOI undertook the investigation following a report from the FDNY. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “This vendor concocted a bucketful of fictional services his firm never provided, overcharging the City taxpayers for phantom employees and supplies, according to the criminal complaints. Deception and theft are not options when dealing with the City.”

JUSTIN LEVY, 49, of Congers, N.Y. and his company Just Cooling were charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and more than 300 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison, and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaints, on various dates in 2010, LEVY and Just Cooling submitted invoices to the FDNY for payment, indicating that the company purportedly purchased materials for FDNY equipment from three suppliers when, in fact, DOI’s investigation found that the invoices submitted were fraudulent and that Just Cooling had not purchased those materials for the FDNY. The investigation also found that the defendants overbilled for services that their employees supposedly provided by inflating hours, wages, and the number of employees servicing FDNY facilities and by listing employees who were no longer working for the company. The investigation included video surveillance, an undercover operation, witness interviews, and the examination of numerous business records of Just Cooling and others. FDNY terminated its contracts with Just Cooling in December 2010.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and FDNY Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano and their staffs for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for FDNY.

Assistant District Attorney Christine Oliveri of the Queens District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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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