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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **DOI FINDS THREE QUEENS BUSINESSMEN UNSUCCESSFULLY OFFERED CASH PAYOFFS TO CITY COUNCILMAN TO SUPPORT LIQUOR STORE LICENSE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement regarding a DOI undercover investigation that found a Queens liquor store applicant and two associates unsuccessfully offered cash to a City Councilman to support their pending liquor license application and use his influence to quell community opposition. The Councilman refused and reported the offer, and DOI was notified. DOI’s investigation resulted in the arrests of two individuals today, and a third is expected to be arrested.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “This is the second time in four months that a City Council Member reported a bribe offer to DOI that resulted in a successful investigation and criminal charges. Clearly, the good news is that there are public officials unwilling to sell their offices. The Council Member’s prompt report allowed DOI to investigate swiftly and shut down the scheme.”

See link to the prior case: [http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/2013/may13/pr21wolfert\\_52213.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/2013/may13/pr21wolfert_52213.pdf)

In May 2013, TARSEM SINGH filed an application for a liquor store license with the New York State Liquor Authority (“SLA”) for a proposed store at 219-11 North Conduit Ave. in Queens. Community members and the City Councilman publicly opposed the liquor store due to its proximity to a high school. Subsequently, the Councilman met with TARSEM SINGH and an associate, later identified as DAVINDER SINGH, in Queens to discuss his opposition. The meeting was captured on a security camera, which showed that TARSEM SINGH and DAVINDER SINGH attempted to pass cash to the Councilman, who refused it. That same day the Councilman reported the incident to officials, which resulted in DOI’s investigation.

In sum, during the course of the investigation, a DOI undercover investigator posing as a representative of the Councilman met and communicated with, variously, TARSEM SINGH, DAVINDER SINGH, and their associate RAJINDER SINGH about the liquor store application. The first meeting took place in June at a Queens diner where TARSEM SINGH and RAJINDER SINGH offered the DOI undercover cash in exchange for the Councilman’s support of the liquor store. During that meeting, RAJINDER SINGH went to a vehicle, obtained cash, and returned to the diner where he handed money to TARSEM SINGH who in turn handed the undercover investigator \$500. During a second meeting at the diner in September TARSEM SINGH and DAVINDER SINGH offered the undercover \$2,000 for the Councilman’s support for the license, which was to be the subject of an upcoming hearing before the SLA. TARSEM SINGH paid the undercover investigator \$900 and the two businessmen agreed to pay the remaining \$1,100 after the SLA hearing. The next day, DAVINDER SINGH texted the undercover investigator with the following, “Call the Liquor Authority. We are counting on you.” DOI notified the SLA, and arrests have been made. The findings of this investigation will be referred to SLA, and TARSEM SINGH currently holds a Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) license, so the findings will also be provided to the TLC.

DOI today arrested DAVINDER SINGH, 37, and RAJINDER SINGH, 26, who each reside in South Ozone Park, N.Y., on charges of Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Giving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. Formal charges by the office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown are pending.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, NYPD Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, and their staffs, and the New York City Council and New York State Liquor Authority, for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

Arrest charges are accusations. Defendants are 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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