



The City of New York
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REMARKS OF DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN

I am pleased to be here with Attorney General Cuomo to announce the first phase of this wide-ranging investigation that broke open this insurance fraud ring and resulted in today's arrests. This complex investigation is an example of the effectiveness of City-State partnerships.

It began with reports that City hospital employees were selling patients' confidential medical information, which prompted undercover investigators to pose as accident victims penetrating the illegal network and seeing firsthand how it worked. This case exposed how these fraudsters turned patient confidential information into a valuable commodity. Most troubling was many of those charged today - lawyers, clinic doctors, City hospital employees - sold their professional responsibilities.

I think Attorney General Cuomo is doing a superb job and I commend him for his commitment to this and so many cases where he has identified and pursued issues of importance for our City and State, fairly, intelligently and vigorously. I also thank my staff at DOI and DOI's squad of detectives for all their hard and successful work on this matter.

Indictments and criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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