



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900



The NYC Department of Buildings
280 BROADWAY, 7th floor
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 566-5000



The Department of Citywide
Administrative Services
1 CENTRE STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 669-7000

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DOI CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOB CONTACT: ROBIN BROOKS
(212) 566-3473**

**DCAS CONTACT: MARK DALY
(212) 669-7140**

**JOINT STATEMENT BY DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN,
DOB COMMISSIONER PATRICIA J. LANCASTER AND DCAS COMMISSIONER MARTHA K. HIRST**

Today's arrests of two individuals for allegedly misrepresenting their qualifications and experience on applications for fire suppression licenses underscores the potential public safety risks that arise when these mandatory professional standards are not met.

SERGEI DENKO and DAVID CONNELL have each been charged with felonies in connection with the alleged offenses. The Department of Investigation ("DOI") notified the Department of Buildings ("DOB") about the approximately 95 jobs that DENKO worked on and DOB has already begun coordinating re-inspections of the sites, which includes checking compliance with the Building Code and ensuring that a fire-suppression system is on site and that there is adequate coverage. As of today, DOB has re-inspected more than a dozen sites. Thus far, no public safety issues have been found. There is no record of CONNELL filing any jobs with the City.

DOI, DOB and the Department of Citywide Administrative Services ("DCAS"), which administers the test for this license, have worked together to strengthen the verification process for applications submitted by individuals who seek fire suppression licenses. Since 2006, the Buildings Special Investigations Unit, under the supervision of DOI, has vetted applicants' qualifications for fire suppression contracting licenses to determine if they meet the necessary experience requirements.

DOI, DOB and DCAS will continue to work together to ensure the integrity of this process.