

The City of New York Department of Investigation ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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DOI ARRESTS FORMER EXPEDITER ON CHARGES OF FILING FALSE CERTIFICATES OF CORRECTION WITH CITY BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of ISAAC DAGIM on charges of filing three false Certificates of Correction with the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") in connection with a multi-residential property at 517-525 West 45th Street in Manhattan. Certificates of Correction certify that violations issued by a DOB Inspector have been corrected at a particular property. DAGIM was a registered filing representative or expediter with DOB, registered to file various buildings-related documents on behalf of homeowners, licensed professionals, and contractors. DOI began its investigation after receiving an allegation that the defendant had filed false documents with DOB. The Office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DAGIM, 35, of Queens, is charged with three counts each of Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Falsifying certificates of correction with the Buildings Department to indicate violations have been fixed undermines public safety and is a direct route to arrest and prosecution."

According to the criminal complaint, in March 2007, the defendant filed three fraudulent Certificates of Correction with DOB regarding a property indicating that the violations had been remedied. DOI's investigation determined that the defendant forged the building owner's signature and that the violations still existed.

DOB has re-inspected the violations, which consisted work without a permit and illegal use of a residential district, by having a commercial business operating on the first-floor of the building.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and DOB Commissioner Robert LiMandri, and their staffs, for their assistance on this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by the Office of the Inspector General for DOB.

Assistant District Attorney Elyse Ruzow of the New York County District Attorney's Office is assigned to the prosecution of this case.

A criminal complaint is merely 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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