

U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2003

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PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICIAL SENTENCED FOR TAKING BRIBES

ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, and **ROSE GILL HEARN**, Commissioner, New York City Department of Investigation, announced that United States District Judge Jack B. Weinstein today sentenced **PEDRO FLAQUER**, the former Administrative Chief Engineer for the Design Department of the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"), for accepting bribes in exchange for providing a contractor confidential documents relating to NYCHA construction projects. FLAQUER was sentenced to three years probation, six months home confinement, a fine of \$20,000, and \$1,400 restitution. FLAQUER pleaded guilty to the charges on May 22, 2003.

FLAQUER admitted during the guilty plea proceedings that, between February and March 2002, in his capacity as an Administrative Engineer and later Chief Administrative Engineer of NYCHA's Design Department, he accepted cash from a contractor in exchange for providing the contractor with lists of planned NYCHA construction projects and their confidential cost estimates. The contracts for which the defendant provided cost estimates were valued at approximately \$6.5 million. The confidential documents FLAQUER provided to the contractor would have given him a competitive advantage in the bidding process. In each instance involving the payment of a bribe, however, the contractor did not submit a bid on any of the construction projects.

FLAQUER resigned from his position with NYCHA shortly before entering his guilty plea.

In announcing the sentencing, United States Attorney **ROSLYNN R. MAUSKOPF** stated, "The crimes to which Flaquer has admitted his guilt attack the foundation of trust that supports New York City public housing. We are dedicated to the cleansing of the housing contracting process to ensure a level playing field for all bidders and to ensure the highest quality construction for public housing."

New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner **ROSE GILL HEARN** stated, "Mr. Flaquer's guilty plea is an example of DOI's successful efforts to rid NYCHA of corrupt employees and contractors. It is imperative we root out those who engage in wrongdoing because affordable, public housing is too scarce and too important to many New Yorkers."

The government's case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney

Richard Faughnan.

The Defendant:

Name: PEDRO FLAQUER

DOB: 11/9/47

Residence: 69 Cherry Hill Road
Blooming Grove, New York