



Department of Investigation *Press Releases*

DOI Arrests Brooklyn Man For "Rigging" City Riggers Exam

Release #013-2000

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of MOHAMMAD NASEER, an employee of a Brooklyn waterproofing and general contracting company, for paying an individual to impersonate him at a City examination and background screening in order to obtain a Special Riggers license from the City Department of Buildings (DOB).

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, a Special Riggers license allows the holder to hoist or lower up to 1200 pounds of material by rigging set up on the exterior of buildings. License applicants must complete and file an examination application, detailing qualifications and personal history, with the City Department of Administrative Services (DCAS). City procedures require that all eligible applicants be fingerprinted at the test site. Applicants who have passed the examination are then required to submit to a second fingerprint screening by DCAS' Bureau of Investigations. Upon comparison of the two sets of fingerprints, successful candidates are notified by DCAS of their qualification to receive a license. DOB then schedules a license issuance appearance with applicants, at which time candidates are fingerprinted once again.

DOI commenced an investigation last August, when DCAS reported that the fingerprints of the individual who, claiming to be NASEER, had taken the Special Riggers license examination on November 6, 1998 (and also appeared for the fingerprint screening at DCAS), did not match the fingerprints taken of NASEER at DOB on May 12, 1999, prior to the issuance of his license. The investigation disclosed that NASEER had allegedly paid an unknown individual, who is still being sought, \$600 to impersonate him at the DCAS examination and follow-up screening. Commissioner Kuriansky noted that NASEER himself had failed a previous license examination on May 23, 1994.

NASEER, 40, of Brooklyn, New York, was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Dennis Curran, DOI's Inspector General for DOB, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro and Special Investigator Anthony M. Capek.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Berger, of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, is handling the matter.