



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DOI ARRESTS BUILDINGS "EXPEDITER" IN \$5,300 FORGED DOCUMENT SCAM -- Falsified DOB C Of O, Work Permit, & 7 Work Permit Applications --

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of MICHAEL NARED, the owner of Yenom Development, Inc., a Bronx "expediting" company, for falsifying a City Department of Buildings (DOB) Certificate of Occupancy (C of O), a DOB work permit, and 7 DOB work permit applications, in return for nearly \$5,300 in fees from a scaffolding firm, a property management company, and another expediter.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, "expediters" are usually independent consultants, who undertake to file DOB-mandated permits, applications, and inspection requests on behalf of various construction industry entities -- including architects, building owners, electricians, engineers, general contractors, and plumbers -- in order to speed the approval process.

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "This arrest is part of DOI's ongoing effort to clean up the Buildings Department and rid it of the unscrupulous middlemen who regularly corrupt the construction process for personal profit. It is hardly surprising that the defendant's firm, 'Yenom,' spelled backwards, means 'money.'"

The investigation began in March 1999, when DOI learned that NARED had provided the owners of a New Jersey scaffolding firm with an improperly altered DOB work permit to erect scaffolding at the Montefiore Medical Center.

The ensuing investigation determined that, in January and February 1999, NARED, for a \$430 fee, had provided a falsified DOB work permit to Triple R Scaffolding, a Fair Lawn, New Jersey, firm. Triple R had requested NARED to obtain a scaffolding work permit for the Montefiore Medical Center at 111 East 210th Street in the Bronx. NARED, in error, obtained a work permit for the Weiler Hospital/Albert Einstein College of Medicine at 1825 Eastchester Road, after submitting to DOB a work permit application containing his notary public stamp, which had expired in 1996. NARED, when informed by Triple R that the work permit he had provided to the firm contained an incorrect address, altered the document, typing in Montefiore's East 210th Street address. NARED was accused of petty larceny, falsely notarizing the work permit application for 1825 Eastchester Road, and providing Triple R with the forged work permit for 111 East 210th Street.

In addition, the investigation further disclosed that, in October 1998, NARED, for a \$4,200 fee, had provided a falsified DOB Certificate of Occupancy to Delta Realty Corporation for a 2-story building at 563 East Tremont Avenue in the Bronx. NARED altered a C of O that DOB had previously issued for 1331 Franklin Avenue in

the Bronx, a retirement home for which NARED had earlier provided expediting services, by changing the address on the document to 563 East Tremont Avenue. NARED was charged with grand larceny and possessing a forged C of O.

Finally, the investigation also revealed that, in November 1998, NARED, for a \$640 fee, had submitted to DOB work permit applications to correct code violations the agency had previously issued against 6 retail store signs at 3700 Riverdale Avenue in the Bronx. The 1-story building complex contained various retail stores, including a supermarket, liquor store, book store, locksmith, bakery, and cemetery-headstone vendor. In doing so, NARED was acting on behalf of Approvals Plus, an expediting firm at 5920 Huxley Avenue in the Bronx, which had actually been retained by the building owner to file the necessary applications. NARED, on all 6 documents, forged the signatures of both the building owner and the sign rigger, and again used his expired notary public stamp. NARED was charged with petty larceny, and falsely notarizing and filing the forged work permit applications.

NARED, 31, of 1555 Seabury Place in the Bronx, a former DOB clerk from 1986 to 1990, set up Yenom Development, Inc., formerly of 4201 Third Avenue in the Bronx, in 1990. He has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both Class D felonies; Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both Class E felonies; and Petit Larceny, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DOB Acting Commissioner Satish Babbar, and Kim Ryan of DOB's Investigation and Audits Division, for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Dennis Curran, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Buildings, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro, Special Investigator John Audette, and former Special Investigator Anthony Capek.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Todd Sherman is handling the matter.