



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

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### **EXPEDITER ARRESTED FOR BRIBERY, COMPUTER TAMPERING**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), today announced that a building expediter has been arrested and charged with offering and paying a \$250 bribe to a clerical employee of the New York City Department of Buildings ("DOB") for falsifying DOB's computer records to indicate that DOB had signed off on ten plumbing jobs that were incomplete. ANGEL VAZQUEZ, the expediter, surrendered to DOI investigators on Monday. The DOB employee, who had immediately reported VAZQUEZ's bribe offer to DOI, cooperated in the investigation that led to his arrest.

According to Commissioner Gill Hearn, VAZQUEZ is a registered expediter whose business with DOB involved filing plans and applications for developers and contractors. In May of last year, a DOB clerical employee called DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOB and reported that VAZQUEZ had offered her money to enter non-existent approvals for incomplete plumbing jobs in DOB's computerized Building Information System ("BIS"). The DOB employee agreed to cooperate in DOI's ensuing investigation. In recorded telephone calls monitored by DOI investigators, VAZQUEZ told the employee that he needed to have 48 plumbing jobs approved in two days and offered to pay her \$25 for each job she falsely marked as complete in the computer.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that DOI investigators reviewed the 48 jobs that VAZQUEZ had identified to determine the kinds of work they entailed and whether they posed safety issues. DOI investigators also learned that VAZQUEZ had obtained unauthorized access to another DOB employee's computer log-in name and access code, which VAZQUEZ offered to provide to the cooperating employee for her use in falsifying the computer records of his jobs. As instructed by DOI investigators, the cooperating employee used VAZQUEZ's unauthorized computer access information to sign off on ten of his jobs, after investigators determined that her doing so would not create safety risks. In return for the cooperating employee's false computer entries, VAZQUEZ paid her \$250 in a meeting monitored by DOI investigators.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster for DOB's assistance in the investigation and praised the clerical employee's integrity and cooperation with DOI: "By immediately notifying DOI that an expediter had offered her money to subvert DOB's procedures and potentially compromise public safety, and by cooperating in DOI's investigation, this employee distinguished herself as a trustworthy, dedicated public servant, and she should be heartily commended."

Department of Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, AIA, said, "I am very proud of DOB's staff member in this matter. Her actions exemplify ethical, professional behavior. This case shows that DOB is

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firmly committed to detecting and deterring corruption and working with DOI to prevent such abuses. I thank the individual from DOB and the Department of Investigation for their efforts on our behalf."

ANGEL VAZQUEZ, age 31, resides at 134-08 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Flushing. He is employed as an expediter at a firm in Long Island City and, at the time of the activity that gave rise to the charges, was employed by Empire Compliance Services in lower Manhattan. VAZQUEZ has been charged with Bribery in the third degree, Tampering with Public Records in the first degree, Computer Tampering in the third degree, Computer Trespass, and Obstructing Governmental Administration in the second degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years imprisonment.

The investigation was conducted by Dennis Curran, DOI's Inspector General for DOB, and members of his staff, particularly Confidential Investigator Jennifer Cunillera and Examining Attorney Derek Pieper. The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the District Attorney for New York County, Robert M. Morgenthau, and is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Joel Kosman of the Rackets Bureau, under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Patrick Dugan, Chief of the Rackets Bureau.

The charges are merely accusations; the defendant is presumed innocent unless convicted of the charges in a court of law.