



## Department of Investigation *Press Release*

Release #021-99

### **4 SANITATION AGENTS ARRESTED IN DOI DRUG-BRIBERY "STING"**

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), together with Bronx District Attorney ROBERT T. JOHNSON and Brooklyn District Attorney CHARLES J. HYNES, today announced the arrest of four enforcement agents with the City Department of Sanitation (DOS). Three (3) of the Sanitation Enforcement Agents (SEA) were charged with the felony sale and possession of cocaine, and the fourth with taking a \$150 cash payoff -- from a DOI undercover agent posing as a landlord -- for not issuing a summons for a sanitation code violation.

Sanitation Enforcement Agents are civilian DOS employees responsible for the enforcement of the City's sanitation code. For example, SEAs issue summonses for such infractions as littering, dirty sidewalks, and not having a proper garbage container permit. The summonses are then adjudicated at the Environmental Control Board and may result in fines of up to \$250 per violation.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, in 1996 DOI received complaints from Bronx and Brooklyn residents that a number of SEAs were involved in the sale and use of narcotics, and were also soliciting bribes from homeowners. In response, DOI initiated an undercover operation. It is alleged that, between April 1997 and May 1998, SEAs DENNIS SELBY, RICKY JOHNSON, and CARLTON TABRON each met with a DOI undercover on at least two occasions and sold various quantities of cocaine, ranging from a "taste" to an ounce. The sales were made in both the Bronx and Brooklyn.

In the fourth case, SEA PERRY WYATT is charged with approaching a DOI undercover, who was posing as a Bronx landlord, and requesting a cash payment of \$150 from him in return for not writing a summons for an illegal garbage container that could have resulted in a \$1,000 fine.

Commissioner Kuriansky pointed out that one of today's defendants, SEA DENNIS SELBY, was previously arrested by DOI last August for having also solicited and accepted \$300 in cash bribes from a Brooklyn contractor in exchange for not issuing him summonses for two dumpsters being used in a renovation job. That case is presently pending trial.

Mr. Kuriansky further noted that 14 sanitation workers at the Brooklyn North District 5 garage in the Highland Park/East New York areas were arrested last June for taking cash payoffs to illegally collect commercial waste, and also for operating unlicensed trade waste removal businesses. The arrests followed a 14-month "sting" operation in which a DOI undercover investigator posed as a contractor and wore a concealed recording device. Twelve (12) other DOS employees assigned to the same Brooklyn garage -- including the District Superintendent, six supervisors, and five sanitation workers -- were also internally disciplined in the sweep.

DENNIS SELBY, 33, of Brooklyn, has been employed by DOS since 1993. He will be immediately

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suspended without pay. SELBY was charged with the felony crimes of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second and Third Degrees and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third and Seventh Degrees. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

RICKY JOHNSON, 36, of the Bronx, has been employed by DOS since 1985. He was immediately suspended without pay. JOHNSON was charged with the felony crimes of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third and Fourth Degrees. If convicted, he faces up to 25 years in prison.

CARLTON TABRON, 36, of the Bronx, has been employed by DOS since 1985. He will be immediately suspended without pay. TABRON was charged with the felony crimes of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Second and Third Degrees and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third and Fourth Degrees. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

PERRY WYATT, 32, of Brooklyn, was employed by DOS from 1987 until 1998, when he resigned. He was charged with the crimes of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, Receiving Unlawful Gratuities, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOS, Confidential Investigator Jackie Walters, and NYPD Detectives Antoine Dandridge and Peter Gallo, of the DOI Investigative Squad, under the supervision of Captain Robert Kelly.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the JOHNSON, TABRON, and WYATT cases. Assistant District Attorney Edward Dondes is handling the matters.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hyn