



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE  
NEW YORK, NY 10038  
212-825-5900

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS FORMER EMPLOYEE OF FIRE-PROTECTION COMPANY  
ON CHARGES OF FAKING INSPECTIONS OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS  
TO STEAL MONEY FROM FOUR BUSINESSES**  
**--DOI previously arrested same individual, in 2007, in fire-extinguisher scam--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that, for the second time in the past 13 months, a DOI investigation has led to the arrest of MAXIM ILIN, a former employee of a private company that inspects fire extinguishers, who in the most recent investigation is charged with posing as an authorized inspector and tricking four businesses in three boroughs into paying him up to \$150 for bogus inspections. In two instances, ILIN was charged with impersonating a City Fire Department ("FDNY") inspector.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Fire regulations are meant to protect lives and property, not to serve as a ruse for shakedowns and flimflam games. Anyone who can't absorb that lesson after one arrest should be prepared to spend some quality time in the criminal justice system."

ILIN, 27, of Brooklyn, was arrested yesterday and charged in Manhattan Criminal Court with two counts each of Forgery in the Second Degree, a class D felony, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree, and Petit Larceny, both class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting that case.

Earlier this month, in separate cases in Brooklyn and Queens, ILIN was arrested and charged in each case with Forgery in the Third Degree, Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree and Petit Larceny, all class A misdemeanors. In the Brooklyn case, Ilin pled guilty to Petit Larceny; the charges in Queens are pending. The offices of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown are prosecuting those cases.

The investigation leading to this month's arrests marks the second time in 13 months that DOI has investigated and arrested ILIN on charges of stealing money in a fraudulent scheme involving fire extinguishers. In December 2007, ILIN was charged with Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a class D felony; Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony and related misdemeanors for allegedly threatening that FDNY fire marshals would shut down a Manhattan business unless the owner purchased, for \$1,350, four fire extinguishers that were later found to be inoperable. In that case, ILIN pled guilty to Petit

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Larceny, a class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to a conditional discharge and five days of community service. (In December 2007, ILIN was arrested under the last name of "ILIM.")

DOI began its most recent investigation after ILIN's former employer, Chase Fire Products, Inc., of Brooklyn, reported to DOI that ILIN was falsely representing himself as an employee and performing bogus fire extinguisher inspections. By fire code, fire extinguishers must be regularly inspected by a representative of a company with a "portable fire extinguisher servicing company certificate." Chase Fire Products is a certificated company. These routine inspections would not be performed by an FDNY inspector.

ILIN, whose employment with Chase Fire Products had been terminated in July 2008, visited at least four businesses in Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn, between July and December 2008, purporting to inspect the businesses' fire extinguishers, representing himself on two occasions as an employee of Chase Fire Products and on two other occasions, in Queens, as a FDNY inspector. ILIN was not an employee of the FDNY. The unwitting businesses each paid between \$25 and \$150 for the bogus inspections.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta and District Attorneys Morgenthau, Hynes and Brown and their staffs, especially Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes and the Bureau of Fire Investigation, for their assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY.

The Manhattan case is assigned for prosecution to Assistant District Attorney Brian McDonald of the New York County District Attorney's Office; the Queens prosecution is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Brooke Barnes of the Queens County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**