



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #029-99

DOI ARRESTS BROOKLYN HOMEOWNER FOR BRIBERY

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of FAUSTO CACERES, a Brooklyn property owner, for paying off an inspector from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, who was cooperating with DOI in an undercover investigation.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI initiated an investigation in October 1998, when an HPD inspector reported that, during a re-inspection of a roof rain leader at 54 India Street, the building's owner, CACERES, had offered him an unknown amount of cash. The inspector had refused the money and then reported the bribe attempt to DOI.

On December 9, 1998, DOI sent another HPD inspector, wearing a concealed tape recorder, to meet with CACERES and conduct a re-inspection of the building. Following the inspection, the inspector informed CACERES that there were three housing code violations -- namely, failure to have a self-closing boiler door, an improperly installed roof antenna, and a missing spark arrester on the chimney roof. CACERES told the inspector that he was in the process of selling the building and that the existing violations would have to be dealt with by the prospective buyer. CACERES then allegedly handed the inspector \$100 in cash in exchange for not reporting the violations.

FAUSTO CACERES, 56, of 54 India Street in Brooklyn, was charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a Class D felony punishable by up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including Special Investigators Caroline Tang and John Bavuso.

The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Rodney Powlis is handling the matter.