



Department of Investigation

Press Release

Release #045-2000

DOI Arrests Engineer Posing As City Building Inspector -Wanted To Get Into NBC Today Show Studio-

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of BRUCE ZARETSKY, a professional engineer, for unlawfully impersonating a City Department of Buildings (DOB) inspector to gain entrance to the NBC Today Show studio at Rockefeller Plaza.

Commissioner Kuriansky said DOI began an investigation in April after DOB referred a complaint from NBC security.

The investigation disclosed that ZARETSKY had appeared at the NBC Today Show studio entrance on February 25, identified himself as an inspector, produced a DOB identification card, and stated that he was there to conduct an inspection of the heating and air conditioning system at NBC studios. Thereafter, ZARETSKY, accompanied by an NBC employee, conducted a 1-hour inspection of the studios, and, later that day, faxed a written inspection report to the NBC technical manager. Subsequently, on April 18, when ZARETSKY returned to NBC supposedly to complete his inspection, he told NBC security personnel that he had received permission to conduct the inspection from the DOB Brooklyn Borough Commissioner. However, NBC security became suspicious and directed ZARETSKY to leave the premises.

The investigation further revealed that the DOB Brooklyn Borough Commissioner had never authorized ZARETSKY to perform any inspection at NBC studios on behalf of DOB, and that ZARETSKY had actually shown NBC staff a DOB "non-employee" identification card, which DOB routinely issues to engineers, architects, and expeditors doing business at the agency.

ZARETSKY, 48, of 466 Liberty Avenue on Staten Island, who heads BZ Engineering of 2201 Neptune Avenue in Brooklyn, was charged with Criminal Trespass in the Third Degree, a Class B misdemeanor, and Falsely Impersonating an Officer, an Administrative Code violation. If convicted, he faces up to 3 months in jail.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to DOB Acting Commissioner Richard C. Visconti and members of his staff, and to NBC, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Dennis Curran, DOI Inspector General for DOB, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro and Confidential Investigator

Anthony Capek.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Lisa Hynes is assigned to handle the matter.