



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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| For Immediate Release: August 8, 2001 For Further Information Contact: Monica Brown at 718-556-7150 | | |

SI BUILDING EXPEDITER INDICTED
******Forged documents for Spanish Camp demolition******

August 8, 2001 - District Attorney William L. Murphy joined City Department of Investigation Commissioner Edward J. Kuriansky today in announcing the indictment of Flory Henao, 38, of 99 Darcey Avenue, Willowbrook, and her company, Amazon Contracting Corp., located at 242 Nevins Street, Brooklyn, on charges of forgery and other crimes, related to Ms. Henao's work as an expediter for the developer of the Spanish Camp property on Staten Island.

Through an indictment unsealed today, Henao was charged with: one count of Forgery in the Second Degree; three counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree; three counts of Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree; and three counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree.

In February, Ms. Haneo allegedly forged documents and filed them with the NYC Buildings Department, thereby allowing the demolition of 3 bungalows at the former Spanish Camp property in Annadale, Staten Island, located at 457 Poillon Avenue. Seventy-five bungalows at Spanish Camp were demolished by the property's new owner, John DiScala, to make way for new homes. However, the original "fence waiver" submitted for the demolition permits did not include the three bungalows at 23, 25 and 27 Marino Boulevard, when it was signed by Acting Borough Commissioner Terrence Lin. The three addresses in question were allegedly added by Ms. Haneo after Commissioner Lin signed the waiver. When Ms. Haneo allegedly filed these documents, she obtained a demolition permit for the three bungalows. If convicted, Ms. Haneo faces 7 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine; Amazon Contracting Corp. faces a fine of \$10,000.

Commenting on today's indictment, District Attorney William L. Murphy said, "Ordinarily, people do

SI Building Expediter Indicted

not view criminal activity involving government documents as a serious matter. It doesn't equate with robbery, burglary and violent crimes. But it is serious because it involves serious consequences. The demolition of the Dorothy Day cottage and others is one of those consequences. This is a serious matter."

This case was jointly investigated by the Richmond County District Attorney's office, the New York City Department of Investigation and New York City Building Department's Unit of Investigations and Discipline (IAD). The investigation was conducted by DOI Inspector General Dennis Curran and his staff, comprised of Examining Attorney Joseph A. Reda (also cross-designated as a Temporary Special Assistant District Attorney for Richmond County), and Confidential Investigator Eugenia Patrikis. The Buildings Department's IAD attorneys who assisted with the investigation were Adam Golden and Jeanne Gilberg (also cross designated as Temporary Special Assistant District Attorneys), both of whom worked under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Peter Amato.

Department of Investigation Commissioner Edward J. Kuriansky said, 'This defendant - a so called "expediter" - duped Buildings personnel into issuing a bogus permit--a permit that enabled an impatient contractor to demolish the Dorothy Day cottages and thereby wipe out an irreplaceable piece of City history. Time and again over the years, these expediter middlemen have been at the heart of schemes to either defraud or corrupt the Department of Buildings. Today's case demonstrates the urgent need to enact dramatic reforms--such as those recently recommended by a high level Mayoral Task Force--to overhaul the Buildings Department and, in particular, to rein in renegade expeditors.'

Acting Department of Buildings Commissioner Satish K. Babbar, R.A. said, " The mutual efforts of the Department of Buildings Office of Investigation and Discipline, the Department of Investigation , and the Staten Island District Attorney's Office , led to today's indictment of Flory Henao, an expediter, in the matter if the demolition at Spanish Camp. This Department's records are official City records that cannot be tampered with or falsified. We are very pleased by the outcome of this investigation, and will now initiate proceedings to revoke the expediter registration of Ms. Haneo."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Michael Deodato.

Ms. Henao is represented by Joel Winograd, Esq.

The grand jury investigation is continuing. The term of the grand jury has been extended to October 31, 2001.

The public is reminded that an indictment is only an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.