



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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DOB Employee Arrested In Bribery Sting

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2000

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and SATISH K. BABBAR, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Buildings (DOB), today announced the felony arrest of STEVEN ALLEN, a DOB clerical associate, for unlawfully accepting a total of \$420 in cash payoffs from an undercover DOB investigator posing as an expediter. The payoffs were allegedly made to obtain fraudulent DOB letters of completion and a fraudulent Certificate of Occupancy (C of O).

According to Commissioner Kuriansky and Acting Commissioner Babbar, this arrest is part of a continuing joint endeavor between DOI and DOB's Office of Investigations, Audits and Discipline (IAD) to deter municipal corruption. In furtherance of that effort, DOB investigators were provided with specialized Peace Officer training and instruction at DOI last year.

On two separate occasions in March 2000, the undercover investigator, posing as an expediter registered with DOB, made cash payments to ALLEN, in the amount of \$60 each, receiving from ALLEN, in exchange, DOB letters of completion for two Brooklyn jobs. In June, ALLEN, aware that required inspections necessary for the proper issuance of a C of O had not been filed with DOB, provided the undercover with a fraudulent C of O for another Brooklyn job, pursuant to an agreement that the "expediter" would pay ALLEN the sum of \$300. The undercover subsequently met with ALLEN outside the Brooklyn Borough Office, at which time ALLEN allegedly accepted two cash payments, totaling \$300, in exchange for having provided the undercover with the fraudulent C of O.

ALLEN, 42, of 45 Fleetwalk, Apt. 6B in Brooklyn, has been employed at DOB since November 18, 1991, and earns a base salary of \$23,517. He was charged with Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree and Issuing a False Certificate, both class E felonies, and with two counts of Receiving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, ALLEN faces up to 4 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Peter Amato, Director of IAD, and members of his staff, including Chief Investigator Mark Sanabria, and DOI Confidential Investigator John Audette, under the supervision of Dennis Curran, DOI's Inspector General for DOB.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney James Kilduff of the DA's Rackets Division is handling the matter.