



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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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

STATEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION

As we explained to the Speaker, a Council subpoena at this juncture could inadvertently grant immunity to individual(s) who might otherwise be the subjects of criminal proceedings. We are pleased that the Speaker now understands the ramifications of subpoenaing witnesses and that he has decided to withdraw the Council's subpoenas pursuant to our request. The investigation can now continue in the hands of the professional offices that possess the necessary expertise and legal tools to conduct such an investigation, e.g., search warrants, use of the Grand Jury process and transactional immunity. This investigation is largely about whether individuals got away with something. What was about to happen in the Council could have assured that result through the granting of unintended immunity and disclosure of critical documents and facts. Indeed, we remain concerned about that because, while the Council agreed to withdraw certain subpoenas at our request, it still intends to move ahead with a hearing on Monday.

We understand that the public has a strong interest in learning the facts behind the early releases of Guy Velella, Hector Del Toro and Manuel Gonzalez, and people want to know if the process was fair and not subject to improper influences. We are using all of the investigative powers at our disposal to assure that a complete, fair and comprehensive criminal investigation is conducted as expeditiously as possible. Additionally, because we are keenly aware of the public interest in this matter, including in the operation of the LCRC, DOI expects to issue a public report with findings in the near future that will, on the one hand, provide the public with answers and information but will not otherwise compromise our joint investigative efforts with the District Attorney -- which is something only we can navigate in conjunction with the DA.

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