



## Department of Investigation

### *Press Release*

Release #054-99

#### **BROOKLYN ◊EXPEDITER◊ ARRESTED FOR FORGING BUILDING ◊C OF O◊**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and RICHARD VISCONTI, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Buildings (DOB), today announced the felony arrest of CHRIS NUZZO, of Brooklyn, for forging a "Certificate of Occupancy" (C of O) that he had provided to an Atlantic Avenue businessman in return for a \$1,600 ◊expediting◊fee.

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "Today's arrest is the first by DOB investigators who recently received Peace Officer training at DOI. We are pleased to have them join us in the fight against fraud, waste, and corruption in City government."

Commissioner Visconti said, "The success of this endeavor sends a clear message that DOB and DOI are working together to rout out corruption. We will not tolerate this kind of activity and will prosecute individuals who engage in it to the full extent of the law."

In November 1998, Mario Crociata, the owner of Whitey's Tires at 3395 Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn, paid NUZZO, who claimed to be able to ◊expedite◊ the filing of DOB paperwork, a total of \$1,600 to obtain a C of O for his business. When Mr. Crociata showed the resulting C of O to his bank, he was informed that the document was not legitimate. Thereafter, Mr. Crociata confronted NUZZO, who admitted that he had created the phony C of O. Mr. Crociata then reported the matter to DOB's Investigations, Audits and Discipline (IAD) Division. When DOB investigators interviewed NUZZO, he again admitted that the C of O was fraudulent.

NUZZO, 31, of Brooklyn, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Forgery in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree, and Petit Larceny. If convicted, he faces up to 4 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by DOB's Chief Investigator Mark Sanabria, IAD Advocate Jeanne Gilberg, and DOI Confidential Investigators Yves Desire, Anthony Capek and Jennifer Klein, 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.