



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI REMARKS ON THE INDICTMENT OF SIX FORMER CITY BUILDINGS INSPECTORS AND
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY INSIDERS ON ENTERPRISE CORRUPTION**

This indictment sends a powerful message to City employees who choose corruption and to individuals in private industry who seek to corrupt them – they face arrest, prosecution, and, if convicted, risk substantial prison sentences. The former City employees charged by this indictment served a criminal enterprise rather than upholding their duty to provide honest services to this City.

DOI worked hand-in-hand with the NYPD and the Manhattan District Attorney's Office on this meticulous and far-reaching investigation. Investigators uncovered a flourishing racket fueled by organized crime's insatiable hunger for illicit profits. The charges describe a host of criminal activities that included payoffs, extortion, illegal gambling and weapons trafficking by City employees. Just as disturbing, these former City employees are also charged with hustling bribes to help construction industry insiders shortcut the City regulatory process. Buildings Inspectors whose job was to enforce City construction rules instead sold their favor to willing buyers for cash and free goods and services. These former inspectors are charged with taking bribes to expedite construction projects and lift Stop Work Orders. As charged, their City jobs served as a conduit to enhance their scam and illegal profiteering.

The good news is that these indicted Buildings Inspectors no longer work for the City and that they and their cohorts in the charged criminal enterprise are being called to account in the criminal justice system.

The Buildings Department has notified DOI that it is reviewing the pertinent properties involved in this indictment to ensure that there are no safety issues.

This case is a tribute to the strength of the continuing partnership among the law enforcement agencies seated here today. DOI investigators shared their extensive knowledge of the construction industry to penetrate, distill and stop the criminal activity.

I thank District Attorney Morgenthau and Commissioner Kelly for their hard work and joint efforts on this matter. And I thank the investigators from DOI for their dedication and tireless work on this case.

An indictment is an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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