



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS CONTRACTOR ON A CHARGE OF OFFERING A \$100 BRIBE
TO A DOI UNDERCOVER POSING AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ("DEP") TO OVERLOOK SAFETY VIOLATIONS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of GREGORY J. CARUSO who is charged with offering \$100 to an individual he believed was a City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") Construction Laborer, but who was actually a DOI undercover investigator. CARUSO allegedly paid the bribe in exchange for overlooking several improper work conditions at the site. CARUSO is the Owner/Operator of Grey-Ruso Construction Co., a construction company located in Whitestone, N.Y. that works primarily on residential jobs. DOI began its investigation after it was alerted by DEP.

CARUSO, 28, of Whitestone, N.Y., has been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DEP Construction Laborers, known as "tappers," connect the building water supply lines to the City's water mains. The site, however, must meet certain criteria before the tap can be made and DEP "tappers" are charged with ensuring that those requirements are met prior to the water main tap. These criteria are established to protect the physical integrity of the City's valuable and complex water main system and to ensure the safety of the workers at the site.

According to the criminal complaint, CARUSO was working at a residential work site located at 10 Center Dr. in Whitestone, Queens, making preparations for DEP employees to connect the building's water system to the City's water main. The DOI investigation showed that certain preparatory conditions were not met, and the connection could therefore not be made. CARUSO allegedly paid a \$100 bribe to the undercover DOI investigator posing as a DEP "tapper" in exchange for overlooking the improper conditions. CARUSO indicated that he paid the \$100 because he needed to get the job done and that it was costing him money everyday he did not get the job done.

The DOI investigation found that CARUSO failed to properly "shore up" the trench in which he was working and in which the tap was to be made. Improper shoring can cause the sides of the trench to collapse, posing a serious threat to workers in or around the trench.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The requirements for tapping into a City water main are in place to ensure the integrity of the City's precious water mains as well as the safety of

workers. The City's water mains could be dangerously compromised if contractors evade the regulations and the water mains are not properly tapped. In this case, DOI's investigation uncovered allegations in which a contractor thought he could bribe a City employee in exchange for skirting the system. The public should know that DOI is watching and is committed to uncovering this type of wrongdoing."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and her staff for their cooperation in the investigation and also thanked the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown for prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by DEP's Inspector General Michael Carroll, Chief Investigator Stephen Kardian and Investigator Max Adler.

James Liander, Bureau Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau at the Queens County District Attorney Office, is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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.

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**