

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE NEW YORK, NY 10038 212-825-5900 Release 62-2003 nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2003

CONTACT: EMILY GEST (212) 825-5931

DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN ADDRESSES DEVELOPMENTS IN DOI CASES

1) A DOI investigation led to today's sentencing of Mitchell Hochhauser, who pleaded guilty in September to stealing a rare Salvador Dali painting. Mr. Hochhauser, a former New York City Assistant Deputy Warden, was sentenced in Bronx Supreme Court to one to three years in jail.

"I am pleased with the first conviction and sentencing of one of the four defendants in the Dali case. Mr. Hochhauser's guilty plea in September illuminated publicly the scheme with which all four defendants were charged. The case against the other defendants – Assistant Deputy Warden Benny Nuzzo and Correction Officers Timothy Pina and Greg Sokol – is continuing," said Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn.

2) A DOI investigation led to the felony arrest of Imeh Jones, a former manager with the NYC Department of Health. He will be charged today in Manhattan federal court with embezzling more than \$120,000. Mr. Jones allegedly generated approximately 40 fraudulent invoices and bills from a catering company that were never rendered. If convicted, Mr. Jones faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and a fine of \$500,000.

"While an employee of the Department of Health, Mr. Jones had a fiduciary responsibility to the people of New York. He took advantage of that role when he embezzled more than \$120,000 of taxpayers' money. His corrupt conduct does not represent the actions of the majority of workers who serve the City honestly and well," said Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn. She also thanked the Department of Health for its assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

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 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.