



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

Release 063-99

### **DEP SUPERVISOR ARRESTED FOR PROVIDING CITY GENERATOR TO CHRISTMAS TREE BUSINESS ON STATEN ISLAND**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1999 – EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced that FERDINAND (Freddy) RICCI, the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) superintendent of water and sewer maintenance for Staten Island, was arrested for providing a City-owned generator to a Christmas tree business last year, and for falsely reporting that he needed the generator for official DEP work. In fact, the generator was allegedly to have been used to supply electricity for lights on the Christmas tree lot, where RICCI also worked.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI investigators, acting on a tip, went to DEP's Brooklyn warehouse last December, and retrieved a "Requisition for Supplies" form that RICCI had submitted requesting a generator for DEP's R2 Yard on Staten Island's Clove Road, where he was based. When investigators went to the Clove Road yard later that day and asked to see the generator, it could not be found. A few minutes later, other DOI investigators secretly videotaped a DEP employee from the R2 yard drive up to a private lot on Hylan Boulevard, where Christmas trees were being sold, and retrieve a generator, per RICCI's request. A check of the generator's serial numbers confirmed it to be the one taken from the DEP warehouse pursuant to the requisition RICCI had filed.

RICCI, 40, of Staten Island, was charged with Official Misconduct and Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to one year in prison.

RICCI has been employed by DEP since August 1984, and currently earns \$67,011 annually. He was immediately suspended without pay.

The investigation was conducted by Clive I. Morricks, DOI's Inspector General for DEP, and members of his staff, including Special Investigator James Christo and Confidential Investigator Robert Medaglia.

The Office of Staten Island District Attorney William L. Murphy is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Ray Rodriguez is handling the matter.