



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**MAN ARRESTED FOR FORGERY AND GRAND LARCENY**

*— Forged the signature of a City employee on City documents and stole \$2,500 from a client —*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI) announced the arrest of DENNIS CANALES, a self-employed draftsman, for forging the initials of a New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) employee on an official DOB document so that CANALES' client thought he had resolved problems so renovations at a Queens restaurant could begin.

CANALES, 47, of Ridgewood, New York, has been charged with Forgery in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, and Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after DOB reported that someone had forged the partial approval by a DOB Plans Examiner on an official DOB document known as an Objection Sheet, which, in this case, detailed 31 existing technical problems with zoning, egress and fire protection that needed to be corrected before DOB approved the project and issued a work permit. DOI investigators determined that CANALES allegedly had forged the Plans Examiner's initials on the Objection Sheet, indicating that 14 of the 31 problems had been resolved. As a draftsman, CANALES was responsible for the preliminary drawings and measurements of the prospective project. CANALES presented the Objection Sheet to his client and claimed that he had resolved 14 of the 31 problems. He asked for and received from the restaurant owner \$2,500 for resolving the problems.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "In allegedly forging a City employee's partial approval of a project, this defendant tried to circumvent rules and regulations designed to protect the public. He also may have drafted himself a future that contains a criminal record."

The Commissioner also commended the DOB employee who reported the alleged criminal conduct and thanked New York State Police Officer John Pratt for his assistance with the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI Confidential Investigator Lewis Santoni and Building Special Investigation Unit Investigator Jim McElligott. The Office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting and Assistant District Attorney Jason Garelick is handling the matter.

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