



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

**STATEMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN
REGARDING THE GUILTY PLEAS BY FORMER DOC BUREAU CHIEF ANTHONY SERRA**

Anthony Serra has pleaded guilty today to Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and to violating the New York City Conflicts of Interest Rules. Yesterday, Anthony Serra pleaded guilty to a Federal tax evasion charge relating to his failure to report income and his claims of false expenses on his tax returns for the years 1998, 2001, and 2002.

The evidence DOI collected in its investigation that led to these two guilty pleas revealed Anthony Serra's systemic violations of Federal and State laws, as well as the City's Conflicts of Interest Rules. By requesting Department of Correction employees to work for his personal business venture providing services to political campaigns, Serra used a City agency and its personnel for his personal business and earned a lot of money in the process. Charges filed against Serra in 2003 in the Bronx alleged that he misappropriated Correction property and equipment (e.g., TVs, computers, furniture, tools, etc.) and had a cadre of Correction subordinates work at his house doing personal chores, installing a kitchen and bathroom, landscaping, driving his wife and kids around, all on agency time. These charges demonstrate that this former high-ranking official used the Correction Dept personnel and equipment for whatever personal purposes he chose.

These guilty pleas follow an extensive investigation by DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Correction. The Inspector General conducted hundreds of interviews, and collected and analyzed numerous documents and evidence from computers seized from Serra's home. This case was investigated swiftly and successfully because DOI investigators worked with vigor and integrity despite difficult, trying circumstances. The Federal, State and City charges belie the suggestion that charges in this case could not and would not be made. I am extremely proud of the work of DOI.

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.