



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI STATEMENT ON THE INDICTMENT OF A QUEENS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
ON CHARGES OF ILLEGAL PAY OFFS TO UNION LEADER**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement regarding the indictment of SANTO PETROCELLI, SR., of Petrocelli Electric Company in Queens, on charges of giving cash payments between the mid-1990s and 2006 to a union representative at Local 3 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers ("IBEW") and leasing a new Ford Crown Victoria for the same representative in 2004.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The charges expose the relationship between the contractor and union official for what it was – a long-running partnership of corruption. That conduct is unacceptable and the contractor has not held a City contract for more than two years.

DOI brought its unequaled expertise in City operations to this intensive, painstaking and far-reaching joint investigation and made certain that the City's interest in safety and integrity was protected.

When contractors engage in corruption they risk criminal prosecution and loss of a prized opportunity to do business with the City."

Noting that DOI worked hand-in-hand with federal authorities, Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Lev L. Dassin, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Joseph M. Demarest Jr., Assistant Director-in-Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's New York Field Division and Daniel R. Petrole, Acting Inspector General of the United States Department of Labor, and their staffs, for their joint efforts on this matter.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is 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.

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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.