

The City of New York Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN COMMISSIONER

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CITY CONTRACTOR FALSIFIED MORE THAN \$50,000 WORTH OF INVOICES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the indictment and felony arrest of ALAN RISI, the president of Georal International Ltd. ("Georal"), for submitting falsified and inflated invoices to the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) that overcharged the City \$50,000.

RISI, 56, was arrested today pursuant to an indictment charging him with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, five counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing, and seven counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument. If convicted, RISI faces up to 15 years in jail.

In 1999, DCAS awarded Georal two contracts -- each was three years in duration and worth \$300,000 -- to service doors on various City buildings. To be paid, Georal was required to submit to DCAS payment requests with supporting documentation from its suppliers and subcontractors. RISI signed the Contractor's Certificate that accompanied each payment request, certifying that all of the prices included in the packages were correct and in full accordance with the contract. DOI's investigation began when DCAS reported it had concerns about costs Georal was charging under the contract. DOI's investigation revealed that in 2001 Georal submitted with its payment requests, supporting documentation, including supplier invoices that had been falsified to reflect inflated prices. Georal's fraud overcharged DCAS more than \$50,000.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This City contractor tried to bilk the taxpayers in order to line his own pockets. Today's charges should be a warning to others; the City will not be fleeced."

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DCAS Commissioner Martha Hirst and her staff for their assistance and cooperation during the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DCAS Inspector General Robert Joyce, Assistant Inspector General Mary Kozlow, and Confidential Investigator Christine Carl. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Hope Korenstein under the supervision of Leroy Frazer, Bureau Chief of the Special Prosecutions Bureau of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

Criminal indictments are merely an accusation. Defendants are 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.

To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.