



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 31-2005
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ANNOUNCES THE ARREST OF THREE BUILDINGS EMPLOYEES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of three employees from the Bronx Borough Office for the New York City Department of Buildings (BUILDINGS) in three unrelated schemes in which each accepted money in exchange for overlooking building code violations and/or expediting the filing of documents with BUILDINGS. The total dollar amount for all three schemes is \$1130.

ENRIQUE CORTES, 63, of the Bronx, and LOUIS BOCCARDORO, 64, of the Bronx have been charged with Bribe receiving in the Third Degree, Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, each face up to seven years in jail. GLORIA GONZALEZ, 56, of Manhattan, has been charged with Receiving Unlawful Gratuities and Official Misconduct. If convicted, she faces up to one year in jail.

CORTES, the Assistant Chief Inspector, allegedly accepted on two occasions a total of \$680. On one occasion, he accepted \$480 in exchange for providing advice to cover up illegal construction work that would result in violations on a project converting commercial space into residential use in the Bronx. On another occasion, CORTES accepted \$200 from a confidential informant in exchange for providing advice regarding an inspection of illegal plumbing in a basement apartment in the Bronx.

BOCCARDORO, a Construction Inspector, allegedly accepted a total of \$300 on two occasions. On the first occasion, BOCCARDORO accepted \$100 to ensure that a construction renovation project at 1967 Crotona Ave. in the Bronx would pass inspection and that BUILDINGS paperwork would be filed quickly. On the second occasion, BOCCARDORO accepted \$200 to overlook an illegal basement apartment at another address.

GONZALEZ, a Clerical Associate, allegedly accepted \$150 to expedite the filing of two DOB inspection schedule applications, or inspection requests, with three different projects in the Bronx.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "These employees overlooked the fact that their paychecks are the only compensation they are supposed to accept for doing their jobs. They dishonor the vast majority of honest City workers who work hard for New Yorkers each day."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked BUILDINGS Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, AIA, and her staff for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation. DOI will share its findings with DOB to ensure that proper inspections are performed.

This case was investigated by DOI's Chief of Staff and Inspector General for BUILDINGS Robert Roach and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro, Special Investigator Diane Delaney, and Special Inspector General Dennis Curran. This matter is being handled by the Office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert Johnson and will be prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney David J. Kirschner.

Complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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