



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS PLUMBING INSPECTOR WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS
ON CHARGES OF BRIBE RECEIVING AND FILING FALSE DOCUMENTS
-- Inspector is charged with accepting \$500 in exchange for falsifying certificates of inspection --**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of FRANKIE LAKHANSINGH, a New York City Department of Buildings ("DOB") Plumbing Inspector assigned to DOB's House Connection Unit, on charges of soliciting and accepting a \$500 bribe from a plumbing contractor in Staten Island. In addition, LAKHANSINGH is charged with filing falsified certificates of inspection with DOB and falsely claiming that he performed mandated inspections on two residential sewer connections in Staten Island.

LAKHANSINGH, 57, of North Brunswick, New Jersey, was charged today with two counts each of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and Official Misconduct, also a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

LAKHANSINGH has been employed with DOB since 2007 and is assigned to the Staten Island House Connection Unit, which inspects residential sewer connections to ensure compliance with City regulations. He receives an annual salary of \$49,778.

DOI began its investigation in March 2008 after receiving a tip that LAKHANSINGH had solicited a cash payment from a plumbing contractor in order to issue Certificates of Inspection for two sewer connections at Staten Island homes. As a result, DOI initiated an undercover investigation.

According to the criminal court complaint, on April 18, 2008, LAKHANSINGH accepted a cash payment in exchange for passing inspection on two separate projects performed by the contractor.

DOI's investigation found that while LAKHANSINGH indicated on DOB records that the inspections were performed, in fact the sewer connections were already covered with dirt at the time LAKHANSINGH reportedly inspected them.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Corruption by a DOB inspector charged with taking a bribe has reared its head again. Fortunately, DOI's swift investigation stopped this charged corruption before it had time to thrive. The criminal activity charged in this complaint is a basic violation of this Inspector's duty. Buildings Inspectors – or any City employee – who pocket cash in exchange for

evading regulations should know DOI is watching. I commend the tipster for coming forward and alerting DOI.”

Acting Commissioner of DOB Robert LiMandri, “Today’s arrest is a testament to our zero tolerance policy for employees who engage in misconduct. Our partnership with the Department of Investigation advances our commitment to infusing integrity into our systems and supports our dedicated public servants as they serve New Yorkers. I’d like to extend my gratitude to Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn for her continued commitment to routing out individuals who engage in misconduct in the Buildings Department and the construction industry.”

This investigation was conducted by DOI’s Inspector General for DOB Michael Carroll and members of his staff, including Chief Investigator Byron Biggerstaff and Confidential Investigator Kristen Krause.

The Office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr. is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints 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.

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