



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS A LICENSED STREET VENDOR FOR ALLEGEDLY CONCEALING  
CRIMINAL RECORD WHEN RENEWING HIS CITY VENDOR'S LICENSE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of RICHARD ADAMS on charges of falsifying information about his criminal history on his vendor license renewal applications in 2004 and 2005, which he submitted to the City Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA").

ADAMS, 64, of the Bronx, has been charged with two counts of Tampering with Public Records in the First Degree, class D felonies, and two counts each of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, class E felonies. If convicted, ADAMS faces up to seven years in prison.

ADAMS has been licensed since 1996 to sell merchandise such as socks and ties on the City's streets, and, as a disabled veteran, he is permitted to vend anywhere in the City, including midtown Manhattan. DOI's investigation revealed that on September 7, 2004 and August 26, 2005 ADAMS submitted renewal applications to DCA in which, despite warnings that false statements were punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, he allegedly falsely wrote that he had no criminal convictions and no pending criminal charges, when, according to the criminal complaint, his criminal record dates back to 1984 and extends to 2004.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Answering questions truthfully in applications submitted to a City agency is not a matter of choice; it is required by law. Knowingly falsifying information in a document provided to the City may result in arrest and criminal prosecution, not to mention losing a valuable license or business opportunity."

DCA issues business-operating licenses to more than 60,000 businesses in 55 different categories, including general vendors.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and members of his staff for their assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI Assistant Inspector General Mary Kozlow and members of her staff, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner Robert Joyce.

Assistant District Attorney Lucrece Francois Dubrovsky from the Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting this case under the supervision of Bureau Chief Tom Wornom of the Special Prosecutions Bureau.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. 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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.**