



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DEP UPSTATE EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH ARSON & INSURANCE FRAUD**  
**— Allegedly set his house on fire while on duty at DEP watershed facility —**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of RANDAL LICARI, an employee of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Water Supply, for intentionally setting fire to his Connecticut home in December 2002 as part of an arson and insurance fraud scheme. LICARI and his wife collected over \$350,000 from the scheme.

Both LICARI, 49, and his wife, ANGELA LICARI, 40, both of Trumbull, Connecticut, have been charged with Arson in the First Degree, Larceny in the First Degree, Insurance Fraud and Conspiracy to commit those crimes under Connecticut penal laws. If convicted, each faces up to 50 years in prison. LICARI has been a DEP employee since 1980.

DOI investigators obtained information in December 2004 that led to a joint investigation with Connecticut authorities into whether the December 2002 fire at the LICARI's home had been deliberately set.

In December 2002, while one of two employees working an overnight shift monitoring DEP's Croton Lake Gate House in Yorktown, New York, a Bureau of Water Supply facility, LICARI allegedly left his post and intentionally set fire to his home located at 1330 Huntington Turnpike, Trumbull, Connecticut. Investigators determined that six days before the fire, LICARI allegedly moved a substantial amount of his personal property from his home to a 5'x15' storage locker he had rented in nearby Newtown, Ct. According to the Trumbull, Ct. Fire Marshal's report, a pile of Duraflame logs had been wrapped as presents and placed near the Christmas tree. These logs allegedly contributed to the spread of the fire. After the fire, the LICARIs collected more than \$350,000 from an insurance policy on the house. During a search warrant executed at the LICARI's new home, which had been rebuilt in 2004, investigators recovered several items that the LICARI's had claimed were destroyed in the fire.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "It's troubling that Mr. LICARI neglected his important duty to monitor the quality of the City's water supply at Croton Lake. Mr. LICARI and his wife face serious consequences to their avarice and unlawful behavior."

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP John B. Kantor, as well as members of his staff, including Chief Investigator Michael Carroll; and by Trumbull Police Department Sergeant Shawn Sember and Detective Anthony Recupero. The Office of Connecticut State's Attorney is handling the case. Assistant State's Attorney Howard Stein will prosecute.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Trumbull Police Department, Connecticut State's Attorney's Office, the Trumbull Fire Marshall's Office, the United States Small Business Administration Inspector General's Office, the United States Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the New York City DEP Police Division for their efforts in this on-going, joint investigation.

Criminal complaints are 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.***

