



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS RABBI FOR OFFERING A FREE TRIP TO ISRAEL TO A CITY EMPLOYEE
-- He wanted to thank the employee for help with a licensing application --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of RABBI ABRAHAM TAUB for allegedly offering an all-expense paid trip to Israel to an employee of the New York City Business Integrity Commission (BIC) as he applied to become a carting broker.

TAUB, 43, of Queens, will be charged with one count of Giving Unlawful Gratuities, a Class A misdemeanor. If convicted, he faces up to one year in prison.

DOI's investigation began after BIC reported TAUB's offer to give the employee the free trip. TAUB was in the process of applying to become a licensed carting broker, someone who is authorized by BIC to help carters sell or buy commercial garbage pick-up routes, and the employee in question was working on the application. Taub offered the trip to demonstrate his appreciation of and gratitude for the attention shown by the BIC employee.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The only person in this case who showed any business integrity was the honest City employee who reported the criminal conduct to DOI. I congratulate the BIC employee for reporting this misconduct."

Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked BIC Chairman Thomas McCormack and his staff for their cooperation and assistance.

Chairman McCormack said, "I am very grateful to DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, and her staff, for their support of BIC in this investigation. BIC remains committed to ensure that all members of the trade waste industry always conduct their business with honesty and integrity. There is no place in this industry for people who engage in acts of corruption, or who seek to undermine the legitimacy of the regulatory process."

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Chief of Staff Robert Roach, BIC Chair Thomas McCormack, DOI Inspector General Julia Davis, DOI Special Investigator Alan Lefkof and Department of Sanitation Police Lieutenant Ronald Cohen. The Office of the District Attorney for New York County is handling the case. Assistant District Attorney Duncan Levin of the Special Prosecutions Bureau will prosecute under the supervision of Bureau Chief Leroy Frazer and Deputy Bureau Chief Thomas Wornom.

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.

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