



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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TWO SANITATION WORKERS ARRESTED FOR RECEIVING BRIBES

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of New York City Sanitation Workers RONALD LOOSEN and CHARLES FLEMING for accepting \$100 from a contractor to remove 40 bags of debris from a home-renovation job in the Bellerose section of Queens.

LOOSEN, 46, of New Hyde Park, and FLEMING, 42, of Far Rockaway, were charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in prison. As Sanitation Workers since, respectively, 1990 and 1987, LOOSEN and FLEMING receive base salaries of \$57,392. Both are assigned to the Queens 13 garage and have been suspended.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "City employees simply may not take money or anything of value, other than their City salaries, for doing their jobs, and they may not free-lance on City time and use the City's equipment for their own financial gain. Now, two Sanitation Workers are charged with ignoring those well-known rules and face not only the loss of their City jobs and benefits but criminal prosecution and possibly jail."

Commissioner Gill Hearn said that DOI investigated a complaint that the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) received through 311 and forwarded to DOI alleging that LOOSEN and FLEMING had been observed removing "trade waste" – commercial refuse – from a house undergoing renovation. On May 25, 2006, DOI investigators conducting a surveillance saw and videotaped LOOSEN and FLEMING load into their DSNY collection truck more than 40 large black bags and loose debris from a contractor working on a house in Bellerose, Queens. Further investigation revealed that the contractor paid the Sanitation Workers \$100 to remove old siding and other debris from the job. City Sanitation Workers are required to remove residential refuse without charge and are prohibited from removing "trade waste."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DSNY Commissioner John Doherty and his staff for their cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DSNY, and particularly Deputy Inspector General Yves Desire, Special Investigators Alan Lefkof, Thomas Spirakis, Danny Lau, Eugenia Wells, and Charles Mercieca and Confidential Investigator Charles Busch. The office of Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Michelle Cort-Hourie, under the supervision of James Liander, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau.

Criminal 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.