



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release # 58-2005
nyc.gov/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

STATEMENT FROM DOI REGARDING THE ARREST OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTER THOMAS DAPARMA
– He tried to bribe lab employees to discard his son's positive drug test results –

Today, DOI arrested retired New York City firefighter Thomas DaParma, who has been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree and Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree, punishable by up to seven years in jail, for offering on at least two occasions to pay between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to lab employees at Bendiner & Schlesinger, Inc. to discard urine test results showing that his son, also a firefighter, had tested positive for cocaine. As a result of the positive drug test, DaParma's son was in danger of losing his job.

DaParma's son Christopher was hired by the FDNY in December 2003 based on a stipulation agreement that he be tested for alcohol, marijuana, and controlled substances on a random basis for 36 months. The stipulation was established because Christopher DaParma had three prior convictions, including one for possession of drug paraphernalia. From December 2003 until May 2005, Christopher DaParma was tested 15 times. He tested negative for drugs and alcohol on all tests except for the test administered on May 8, 2005, when he tested positive for cocaine. On May 18, 2005, Christopher DaParma was suspended for 30 days without pay. In mid-June, on two occasions, Thomas DaParma visited Bendiner's facilities in Brooklyn and attempted to pay employees to discard the positive results from his son's drug test from May 8. Bendiner immediately reported the bribe attempt to FDNY, which, in turn, alerted DOI. On July 7, 2005, Christopher DaParma resigned from the FDNY.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Thomas DaParma engaged in a deliberate attempt to tamper with evidence, and circumvent laws and FDNY policy and regulations. No matter how desperate, these actions were the wrong course to take. All City employees subject to drug testing should know that these tests are not a game and tampering with the results is illegal. I congratulate Bendiner & Schlesinger, Inc. and the FDNY for bringing this matter to DOI's attention. DOI will make recommendations to the FDNY regarding its procedures for hiring individuals with criminal records."

Thomas DaParma joined the FDNY in 1977. In 2002, he was elected Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) Queens trustee. He resigned from this position in July 2003 and was placed back on full duty, and assigned to the Fire Academy as an instructor until his retirement in March 2005.

This is the second case in two-months in which an employee for a company under contract to conduct drug tests for City employees was offered a bribe to discard positive drug test results for City employees. However, unlike the honest employees at the Bendiner & Schlesinger who came forward and reported the bribe attempts offered by DaParma, an employee of Bay Park Medical/Occupational Health Services lab, which was under contract with the New York City Housing Authority, was arrested by DOI in July because she accepted a \$100 bribe from a DOI undercover investigator to alter drug test results.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for FDNY. This case will be prosecuted by Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and will be handled by Assistant District Attorney Josh Hanshaft.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.