



The City of New York
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DOI ARRESTS CONTRACTOR FOR FILING FALSE VENDEX INFORMATION

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of JERRY BASS, owner of Bass and Bass Watchguard and Patrol for allegedly filing fraudulent documents with the New York City Department of Finance (DOF) while obtaining a \$7.4 million, 5-year long contract with DOF to provide security for DOF offices throughout the City.

BASS, 39, of Valley Stream, Long Island, will be charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

In order to obtain a security contract worth \$7,416,018 with DOF, BASS allegedly filed false information on the VENDEX Principal and Business Entity questionnaires he submitted. By law, vendors under consideration for award of contracts must have complete VENDEX Questionnaires for their organization and principals. The completed questionnaires assist City agencies in reaching a responsibility determination. BASS allegedly failed to disclose his ownership of companies affiliated with Bass & Bass Watchguard. He also allegedly failed to disclose that Bass and Bass Watchguard was once named Bass & Bass Security, and that he had failed to pay federal, state, and city taxes for both himself and Bass and Bass Security, Inc. Had BASS disclosed this information, DOF may have discovered that tax and OTHER liens had been filed against BASS and Bass & Bass Security. These liens would have been considered when DOF was determining if Bass and Bass Watchguard Patrol was a responsible vendor. DOF awarded Bass Watchguard and Patrol the contract in November 2002. In April 2004, DOF terminated the contract in the best interests of the City.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Let this case warn other City vendors or potential vendors: The City only wants to do business with responsible companies who represent themselves honestly and who provide the services for which they were hired. VENDEX forms are scrutinized and false statements on these forms may be prosecuted."

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Assistant Commissioner Vincent E. Green and Deputy Inspector General Maureen Lewis. The case is being prosecuted by the Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau. Assistant District Attorney Hope Korenstein, of the Special Prosecutions Bureau, will handle the matter.

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.