



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS UPSTATE CAMP MANAGER FOR ALLEGEDLY OFFERING \$10,000 TO
EMPLOYEE OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO
OVERLOOK SEPTIC VIOLATIONS AT THE CAMP**
--DOI receives tip from DEP employee--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the arrest of CHAIM NOE for allegedly offering to wire \$10,000 into the personal bank account of an upstate New York City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") employee to overlook wastewater treatment violations at the summer camp managed by NOE.

NOE, 26, of Brooklyn, was charged Monday, September 17, 2007, with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison. Following the arrest, NOE was released on his own recognizance.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Individuals who choose to try and avoid regulations that have been put in place to protect the environment risk arrest and possible jail time. I commend the DEP employee for dutifully fulfilling the obligation to report this to DOI. DOI will vigorously continue to pursue these types of allegations in the future."

NOE is the manager of Machne Tashbar, a children's summer camp and family retreat, in the upstate New York town of Hunter. A DOI investigation found that the DEP, the New York State Department of Health and a Town of Hunter Building Inspector cited various violations at the camp that could have prevented the opening of the facility. DEP became involved because Machne Tashbar is located adjacent to the Schoharie Creek. The Schoharie Creek feeds the Schoharie Reservoir, which in turn feeds into the New York City drinking water supply.

According to DOI's investigation, prior to the summer 2007 season DEP learned that the camp's septic system was not working properly and threatened to contaminate the surrounding area, including the creek leading to the Schoharie Reservoir. In return for overlooking wastewater treatment violations related to DEP's findings, which could have shut the camp for the 2007 summer season, NOE allegedly offered to wire \$10,000 to the DEP employee's personal bank account. The DEP employee refused the bribe and reported it to DOI. Subsequently, DEP found no contamination in the creek or the reservoir.

The camp has submitted plans to DEP for the construction of a subsurface wastewater treatment plant that will be able to handle the amount of waste produced at the camp and prevent the waste from overflowing into the Schoharie Creek. DEP plans to monitor the construction of the project.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and members of her staff for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DEP's Inspector General Michael Carroll, Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy, Chief Investigator Stephen Kardian and Special Investigator Anna Wittman.

The case is being prosecuted by Lauren Swan in the Ulster County Office of the District Attorney, under the supervision of Ulster County District Attorney Donald A. Williams.

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.

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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**