



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release # 66-2006  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006**

**CONTACT: CAROL STRICKLAND**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS THREE BROOKLYN PROPERTY OWNERS FOR PAYING BRIBES TO  
CITY BUILDINGS INSPECTOR**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of three Brooklyn property owners, DAVID SAFIR, GENNADIY BRONSTEYN and ARKADI SHAPIRO, for bribing a Department of Buildings (DOB) investigative inspector so he would ignore violations in the City's building code concerning construction work performed contrary to approved DOB plans. SAFIR allegedly paid the DOB inspector \$3,000 and BRONSHTEYN and SHAPIRO \$1,500 to dismiss violations so that a certificate of occupancy could be issued on each of their properties.

SAFIR, 36, BRONSTEYN, 47 and SHAPIRO, 55, all of Brooklyn, have been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree and Rewarding Official Misconduct in the second degree. If convicted, they each face up to seven years in jail.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This case is an example of interagency cooperation between DOI and the Department of Buildings to ensure that buildings are constructed or renovated in a safe manner and in accordance with approved DOB plans. This should serve as a warning to other property owners that there are consequences to be paid by those who engage in corrupt conduct and attempt to construct illegal or unsafe buildings."

Buildings Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA said, "The unique partnership between the Department of Buildings and the Department of Investigation once again shows that the architects, engineers, inspectors and experts of the Department of Buildings cannot be bought, in Brooklyn or anywhere else. As part of our targeted enforcement plan to curb illegal construction, in the past year we have stopped 63 jobs in Manhattan Beach for violations of building and zoning laws. We will not be deterred from our mission to ensure the safe and lawful use of buildings and property in New York City." She added, "You will never know where we are going to be and what we are looking for, but if you are doing something wrong, we will find you." Commissioner Lancaster thanked Commissioner Gill Hearn, the investigators of the Department of Investigation and the staff of the Buildings Special Investigations Unit for their joint effort in these arrests.

DOI began an investigation after SAFIR'S property, located at 245 Exeter Street in Brooklyn, had been cited by a DOB construction inspector for work performed contrary to DOB approved plans, and a stop work order issued. Upon re-inspecting the premises at SAFIR's request, the inspector – since assigned to the DOB Special Investigations Unit, a unit supervised by DOI – discovered that construction work was completed despite the fact that SAFIR failed to file an amended plan with DOB. SAFIR then offered and gave the inspector \$3,000 so as not to issue another violation and to dismiss the previous stop work order. In a subsequent exchange with the inspector, SAFIR passed along information that he had a friend in a similar predicament with his property located at 170 Coleridge Street in Brooklyn, and would be

willing to pay the inspector money to remove violations that were issued against that property in order for him to obtain a certificate of occupancy.

The inspector subsequently met with property owner GENNADIY BRONSTEYN. Also present at this meeting was the owner of the adjoining property located at 168 Coleridge Street, ARKADI SHAPIRO. After the inspector observed that the two semi-attached homes on the divided lot were built contrary to DOB approved plans, both BRONSYTEYN and SHAPIRO offered the inspector \$10,000 to remove existing violations on the property so a certificate of occupancy could be issued. SHAPIRO then handed the inspector \$500 as a down payment, and another payment of a \$1,000 at a subsequent meeting.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Patricia Lancaster and her staff for their assistance in this investigation, which was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOB John Woods and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro and Investigators John Delvalle and Sadie Lopez. The office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Joseph DiBeneditto in the Racket's Division is assigned.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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