



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**DOI AND FDNY ARREST 35 BUSINESS OWNERS, EMPLOYEES AND BUILDING OWNERS  
DURING JOINT CITYWIDE WARRANT SWEEP FOR ALLEGEDLY  
FAILING TO APPEAR ON OUTSTANDING FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS**

***--To date, fines connected to the fire code violations have totaled nearly \$10,000--***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), and NICHOLAS SCOPETTA, Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), announced today the arrest of 35 business owners, employees and building owners on warrants for allegedly failing to appear before New York City Criminal Courts on outstanding criminal summonses issued for various fire code violations.

These individuals were arrested during a Citywide sweep as part of a continuing joint effort by DOI and the FDNY Fire Marshals that began in July 2007 after a DOI investigation revealed these outstanding arrest warrants.

Those arrested have been issued a criminal summons by a FDNY Fire Inspector for various fire code violations and/or failure to comply with the Fire Commissioner's order to correct fire code violations. These individuals then allegedly failed to appear before the court to answer the summonses, which are unclassified misdemeanors. Thereafter, an arrest warrant was issued by a judge for failure to appear. As a result, DOI and the FDNY Fire Marshals arrested these individuals at their homes and/or businesses on arrest warrants and returned them to the courts to face fire code violations.

Those arrested are facing fines for allegedly violating the fire code on a range of activities, including dispensing fuel without a FDNY Certificate of Fitness; out-of-order fire alarm/sprinkler systems; operating an auto body/mechanic shop without a FDNY permit; operating an unlicensed cabaret and operating air compressors without a permit. Thus far, fines levied against those arrested range between \$100 and \$3,500. To date, 12 individuals have been fined a total of \$9,850 in connection with fire code violations.

Today's announcement comes during the celebration of Fire Prevention Week, which runs from October 7 to October 13, 2007. The week enables the FDNY to stress the importance of fire safety for all New Yorkers.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "DOI is pleased that it can partner with the FDNY on this important joint effort to ensure that individuals adhere to the City's fire code and that those who face violations do not circumvent the law. Keeping New Yorkers safe is at the core of this continuing Citywide sweep."

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said, "This partnership between DOI and FDNY has made our City safer for those who live and work here. Business and building owners who think they can ignore fire safety rules had better think twice - because we will hold them accountable under the law. I want to thank Commissioner Gill Hearn and her staff at DOI, along with our fire marshals, for their efforts in this successful joint venture."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief Fire Marshal Louis Garcia and the New York City Law Department for their assistance and cooperation in these cases.

These Citywide warrant sweeps were conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY and the Bureau of Fire Investigations of the FDNY. The New York City Law Department is handling the prosecution of these cases in the criminal courts under the supervision of Senior Counsel Sherrill Kurland.

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.*

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