



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS STATEN ISLAND GAS STATION OWNER FOR ALLEGEDLY BRIBING AN UNDERCOVER
DOI INVESTIGATOR POSING AS A DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS INSPECTOR**
--The bribe was allegedly offered to overlook violations at the gas station--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced the arrest of SAMIR JOUDEH, a.k.a. SAMMY JOUDEH, for allegedly offering \$100 to a DOI undercover investigator posing as a Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) Inspector to overlook violations at the Staten Island gas station he owns at 1635 Hylan Boulevard.

JOUDEH, 42, of Staten Island, was arrested Tuesday, October 16, 2007, and charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E Felony. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

DOI began its investigation in March 2007 on a tip from DCA and a DOI investigator posing as a DCA Inspector went to the gas station. According to the criminal complaint, the undercover was offered money by JOUDEH in exchange for not reporting a violation and to prevent a follow-up inspection at his gas station.

The DOI investigation found that the alleged violations were related to the fuel caps not being properly painted and improper weights and measurement stickers on the fuel pumps. These rules are in place to ensure that gas with different octanes is not improperly mixed and that each is placed in its designated tank. In addition, the rules ensure that consumers are actually purchasing the gas that is posted at the pump.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Business owners who think they can bribe City employees to circumvent rules and regulations that are in place to protect the public need to understand there are serious consequences to such criminal conduct. As this arrest shows, DOI will continue to utilize its investigative resources to determine when such wrongdoing has occurred."

The DCA issues business operating licenses to more than 60,000 businesses in 55 different categories.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and members of his staff for their assistance in this investigation, as well as Chief Investigator Robert

Turbiak and Senior Detective Investigator Gary Mercer of the Office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan.

DOI Associate Commissioner Robert Joyce, and members of his staff, including Assistant Inspector General Mary Kozlow, and Special Investigator Don McNeil, conducted this investigation.

The Office of Richmond County District Attorney Daniel Donovan is prosecuting the case.

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.**