



The City of New York
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**DOI STATEMENT ON SENTENCING OF FORMER PLUMBING COMPANY SUPERVISOR
FOR BRIBING A CITY INSPECTOR TO APPROVE FAULTY SEWER CONNECTIONS**

--Bribes were paid between 2000 and 2003--

JOSEPH DEGRATTO, 65, a retired supervisor at Pullini Water Services, Inc., a Brooklyn plumbing company, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn to four years' probation, six months' monitored home detention, and a \$2,000 fine for paying thousands of dollars in bribes to DEAN A. MASSARI, 41, a former Inspector for the City Department of Buildings ("DOB"), for overlooking City regulations involving the construction of residential sewer line connections. On July 22, 2008, MASSARI was sentenced to six months in federal prison, three years of supervised release, and a \$3,000 fine for accepting the bribes.

The sentencing of both defendants is the culmination of an investigation by the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), with assistance from the City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). The office of United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Benton J. Campbell, prosecuted the case, which was assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Brownell.

MASSARI and DEGRATTO pleaded guilty in October 2007 to Theft or Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds. MASSARI resigned from his DOB position in 2003 and DEGRATTO has retired from his job.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said: "For three years, a corrupt contractor found it cheaper to buy off a corrupt Buildings inspector than to install proper sewer connections. And the inspector found that he could make more money by not inspecting the work than he could by doing his job. Neither individual expected to be caught, but both miscalculated and are now paying the bill for their illegal bargain. Anyone contemplating a similar, foolish arrangement would do well to stop and think about how this one worked out for these gentlemen. I commend the hard work of DOI's investigators, the FBI and the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District in this case."

MASSARI, of Mount Kisco, N.Y., and DEGRATTO, of Manchester, N.J., were arrested in May 2007 on allegations that DEGRATTO paid MASSARI money several times per month between January 2000 and June 2003. In exchange, MASSARI approved paperwork required by the City, even though he never conducted the required inspections. In addition, DEGRATTO told Pullini work crews to deviate from plans

approved by the DEP, which resulted in reducing the amount of materials and digging involved to complete the jobs.

Investigators identified approximately a dozen sewer connections in Brooklyn and the Bronx in which crews deviated from approved plans. Engineers with DEP informed DOI that none of those sites, or the sewer system, has been compromised.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and her staff for their ongoing assistance in this investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the FBI's New York Field Office for their partnership in this investigation and DOB Commissioner-designate Robert LiMandri for his department's cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Inspector General Michael Carroll and Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DEP, under the Supervision of Associate Commissioner John B. Kantor. Also assisting in the investigation from DOI were Special Inspector General Dennis Curran and Deputy Chief Investigator Crissy DeAngelo and Investigator Robert Miller.

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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