



The City of New York  
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**STATEMENT FROM DOI ABOUT THE INDICTMENT OF BRONX STATE SENATOR EFRAIN GONZALEZ**

Today, Efrain Gonzalez, one of the City's longest-serving state senators, has been charged with mail fraud. In essence, the indictment alleges that he participated in a scheme to defraud West Bronx Neighborhood Association, a not-for-profit that he founded in 1993 and is headquartered on the same floor as his state office in the Bronx, by using West Bronx's bank account to pay for his own personal expenses.

DOI Commissioner ROSE GILL HEARN said, "Individuals are elected to public office in order to represent the public's interests. Instead of using government funds to help the community he represents, this defendant served his own interests while allegedly siphoning government money into his own pockets. These charges, as well as other DOI cases involving elected officials, demonstrate that DOI will aggressively pursue allegations that involve corruption with a City property, funding, contract or process. These cases should serve as a real and serious deterrent for others who would consider engaging in corruption."

During the course of an un-related investigation, DOI discovered that City money was being transferred to West Bronx. In examining scores of records, including canceled checks, bills and invoices from West Bronx, and, as alleged in the indictment, DOI investigators were able to determine that a portion of West Bronx's funding was allegedly being used to pay Gonzalez's personal expenses.

This on-going investigation is wide-ranging and has examined expenditures and reimbursements from West Bronx, among other issues. Since this is an on-going investigation; DOI will not comment further.

This investigation is one of a series of investigations worked on by DOI involving elected officials. Specifically, a DOI investigation led to the felony arrest in July 2006 of State Assemblywoman Diane Gordon. That indictment charges Assemblywoman Gordon with soliciting bribes – including a \$500,000 house ordered built to her specifications - in exchange for supporting a contractor's proposal to acquire and build upon a parcel of City-owned land in Brooklyn. DOI is also participating in an investigation that became public in March 2006 when DOI and the FBI executed search warrants in March 2006 at the district office of State Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin and the headquarters of the Central Labor Council. No charges have been filed in that case; therefore DOI has not and will not confirm the substance of that investigation. Lastly, several years ago, a DOI investigation into corruption led to the felony indictment of former City Councilman Angel Rodriguez, who was sentenced to 52 months in jail for extorting a real estate developer seeking City approval to build a multi-million dollar waterfront development project in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Those cases, coupled with the announcement of today's charges brought by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, demonstrate that DOI will aggressively pursue allegations that involve corruption with a City property, funding, contract or process. These cases should serve as a real and serious deterrent for others who would consider engaging in corruption.

Today's charges 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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