



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**MASTER ELECTRICIAN CHARGED WITH SUBMITTING
FRAUDULENT LICENSE APPLICATIONS TO BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today a joint investigation with the Office of Inspector General for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey that resulted in the arrest of JOHN MARI JR., 54, of Staten Island, N.Y, a Licensed Master Electrician, on charges of submitting four signed electrical license renewal applications to the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") that falsely indicated he was responsible for work performed under that license, when in fact, the investigation found, he had agreed to sell the license to another individual for a monthly fee of \$2,000 and did not oversee the work. The joint investigation also resulted in the arrest and guilty plea of JOHN MARI SR. for similar conduct. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Duping a City licensing agency is a fool's game that ends in criminal charges. The City's construction codes are meant to protect the public's safety and the integrity of construction work in New York City, and deliberate schemes to circumvent them will not be tolerated. This case is a testament to the joint efforts of all the law enforcement and City agencies involved and a powerful message to individuals who seek to bypass the rules: Arrest and prosecution await."

Robert E. Van Etten, Inspector General for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, said, "John Mari, Jr. has failed to learn that integrity is a prerequisite to work for the government, in that he was recently prosecuted for violating the prevailing wage laws on Port Authority projects. The vigilant investigative work of the Port Authority Office of Inspector General and DOI uncovered the most recent scheme involving the sale of his electrical license. Mari Jr. learned well from his father, who recently pleaded guilty for selling his electrical license. Contractors should think twice before defrauding the Port Authority and New York City."

DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri said, "New Yorkers depend on licensed professionals to perform safe construction work, and these licensees betrayed the public's trust in order to make a profit. New Yorkers deserve better, and these arrests send a clear message to the construction industry that circumventing the law for selfish gains will not be tolerated. I would like to commend Commissioner Gill Hearn and her staff for their hard work in bringing these people to justice."

JOHN MARI JR., was arrested today and charged with four counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant signed four electrical license renewal applications for his company Mari Electric Contractors Inc. that were filed annually with DOB between 2005 and 2008. The forms stated that the licensee would be fully responsible for electrical work performed under the license, including supervision of employees. The investigation found that MARI JR. agreed to accept \$2,000 each month from another individual for the exclusive use of the license and company name. The investigation also found the defendant did not supervise the electrical work performed on behalf of Mari Electric.

As a result of administrative action taken by the Buildings Special Investigation Unit ("BSIU") MARI JR.'s Master Electrician's License has been suspended for two years, through September 2012, and he was fined \$5,000. BSIU, with a staff that includes DOB personnel, is supervised by DOI. BSIU was formed in 2004 to investigate and suspend or revoke the DOB licenses or registrations of individuals and companies who violate the construction codes.

In October 2010, JOHN MARI SR., 86, of Franklin Square, N.Y., was arrested and pleaded guilty the same day to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, was fined \$5,000, and permanently surrendered his Master Electrician's License.

DOB is re-inspecting the electrical jobs performed under the MARIS' licenses.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., Robert E. Van Etten, Inspector General for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Office, DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Elyse Ruzow of the New York County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of Michael Scotto, Chief of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, has been assigned to the prosecution of 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.

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To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**