



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #86-2010
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010**

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DOI ARRESTS AN OFFICIAL OF A NOW-CLOSED CLINIC IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS CHARGED WITH FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS LICENSE FROM CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of PHIL HOROWITZ, an official of the now-defunct New York Medical and Neuro Care in Forest Hills, Queens, on charges of illegally obtaining a radioactive materials license from the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") by submitting an application with the names of a radiologist and a physician without their knowledge or permission. DOI initiated an investigation after it received information that a radiologist was interviewed by the defendant for a position at the medical office and later discovered his name was fraudulently used on a radioactive materials license for that medical office. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. obtained the indictment against the defendant and is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "As an official of a health care facility, this defendant was supposed to protect the public's well-being. Instead, he is charged with forging a physician's name to make it appear his clinic had the proper City requirements to obtain radioactive materials. This arrest demonstrates that where public health and safety are concerned, falsifying paperwork filed with the City can lead to investigation and prosecution."

HOROWITZ, 51, of Dix Hills, N.Y., is charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI's investigation as outlined in the indictment found that in May 2008, HOROWITZ applied for a radioactive materials license for New York Medical and Neuro Care in Queens stating on the application that the license would be assigned to a radiologist responsible for ensuring the safe and proper handling of the radioactive materials. DOI's investigation found that the radiologist listed on the license did not know or give permission for the defendant to use his name on the application form. In addition, the investigation found that a letter of reference submitted with the license application and purportedly signed by a second physician was forged.

New York Medical and Neuro Care, which provided general health care and pain management, needed a radioactive materials license to purchase and operate a cardiac imaging machine. The office closed in the summer of 2008.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Thomas Farley and New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOHMH.

Special Investigative Counsel Joanne Siegmund of the New York County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting this case.

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is 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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