



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**EMPLOYEE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE ("DOHMH") ARRESTED
FOR ALLEGED POSSESSION OF DRUGS WITH INTENT TO SELL
AFTER SEARCH WARRANT EXECUTED AT HIS BRONX APARTMENT
*--The arrest was the culmination of an investigation by DOI and NYPD--***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the results of an investigation by DOI and the New York City Police Department ("NYPD") that led to the arrest of a Department of Health of Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") employee on drug charges.

ISAAC RUIZ, a DOHMH Pest Control Supervisor, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree with Intent to Sell, a class B felony; Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, a class B felony; Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor; and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana, a criminal violation. If convicted, RUIZ faces up to 25 years in prison.

RUIZ, 45, has been a DOHMH employee for 10 years and earns an annual salary of \$35,279.

RUIZ was arrested on December 27, 2007 after a search warrant was executed at his Bronx apartment. According to the criminal complaint, investigators found at least a half ounce of cocaine, a scale and some marijuana in the rear bedroom.

Subsequent to the arrest, two more DOHMH employees have been interviewed by DOI and have admitted to obtaining cocaine from RUIZ. A criminal referral will be made to the District Attorney's Office regarding those employees. In addition, referrals will be made to DOHMH for disciplinary action to be taken against the two employees. The investigation is ongoing.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said: "This arrest underscores that any illegal drug sale or use by City employees will not be tolerated. It also demonstrates how the successful partnership among City agencies helped stop this alleged criminal activity. City employees who choose to involve themselves with drugs must know that they risk serious consequences, including prison time. Mr. Ruiz's arrest follows an earlier arrest today of another DOHMH employee that involved allegations of theft. I commend DOHMH for its assistance and swift response on each of these cases."

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, DOHMH Commissioner, said, "I commend the DOI, Police Department and Health Department employees who worked together to make this investigation a success. Violations of the public trust are not tolerated at DOHMH. The overwhelming majority of the agency's employees are honest and hard-working, and we cannot have their work tarnished by the actions of a few."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the Major Case Unit of NYPD's Narcotics Borough Manhattan South and the NYPD Squad of Detectives assigned to DOI for their work on this case. The Commissioner also thanked the DOHMH for their assistance.

Additionally, Commissioner Gill Hearn stated that if any City employee has information about wrongdoing at DOHMH or at any City agency, they should come forward and contact DOI. To do so is extremely commendable and helps us with our mission to root out problems in City agencies.

This investigation was conducted under the supervision of DOI's Inspector General for DOHMH Christopher Staackmann and his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander and Chief Investigator Byron Biggerstaff.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.**