

The City of New York Department of Investigation

> ROSE GILL HEARN COMMISSIONER

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## DOI ARRESTS 14 INDIVIDUALS TODAY IN A BROAD ARRAY OF FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today that the agency made a notable 14 arrests, in five separate cases, highlighting the diverse mix of DOI's investigations. The cases included investigations of systematic bribery and insurance fraud in two City hospitals, housing fraud involving five defendants, and a false 911 report by an Emergency Medical Technician.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's arrests reflect the diversity of DOI's docket and the dedication and expertise of its investigators. They work hard every day to protect the City and its taxpayers from fraud, waste and corruption. In these cases, DOI ferreted out the facts, exposed and stopped corruption, and held individuals accountable in charged schemes against the City. I thank and commend the individuals who stepped forward to alert us to these cases and urge all New Yorkers to help us get the worms out of the Big Apple by calling DOI if you see anyone ripping off the City. The number is (212) 825-5959."

Following is a list of today's arrests followed by links to the relevant press releases:

- An investigation by DOI and the New York State Attorney General's office uncovered an insurance fraud scheme that led to the arrest today of eight individuals, including an attorney and seven current or former employees from the City Health and Hospitals Corporation ("HHC), on bribery charges. The release can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr95hhcarrests\_92309.pdf</u>.
- DOI arrested five individuals on housing fraud charges in three separate cases. One couple applying for a City-sponsored low-income apartment had combined annual income that exceeded \$135,000 in 2008. The releases can be found at the following links: <u>http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr97drake\_92309.pdf</u> and <u>http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr98hdcfraud\_92309.pdf</u>.
- DOI arrested an Emergency Medical Technician who works at a private hospital in Brooklyn on a charge of making a false 911 report. The release can be found at the following link: <u>http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/pdf/pr96giacobbe 92309.pdf</u>.

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.