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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FATHER-AND-SON TEAM OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS INDICTED FOR FALSIFYING ASBESTOS REPORTS**

*\*\*Duo performed inspections at former Mount Manresa site and seven other locations\*\**

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Acting Richmond County District Attorney Daniel L. Master, Jr. today announced that two professional engineers/certified asbestos investigators have been indicted on 36 counts of offering a false instrument for filing and falsifying business records after they submitted false asbestos assessment reports for work done at the former Mount Manresa site in Fort Wadsworth, as well as seven other Staten Island locations.

Acting District Attorney Daniel L. Master, Jr. said, “These men had a professional, ethical, and legal responsibility to accurately report the presence of toxic asbestos at the former Mount Manresa site and seven other locations where they had been contracted to conduct such inspections. Instead, they falsified their reports and lied about the presence of asbestos, a deadly substance that has been known to cause cancer. Their callous actions put the health of the public, several homeowners and other construction workers at risk, and that will not go unchecked. I want to thank DOI Commissioner Mark Peters and his office for their assistance in this investigation. I also want to thank ADA David Frey for spearheading the prosecution of this case.”

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, “Falsifying important safety information is no way to do business in the City of New York. DOI joined with the Staten Island District Attorney's Office to investigate this significant crime and will continue to expose and stop those who circumvent the City's environmental and construction regulations.”

Defendants **GASPARE SANTORO**, 75, AND **PAUL SANTORO**, 36, who both hold licenses as New York City Certified Asbestos Investigators and for New York State Asbestos Handling, filed DEP ACP5 forms, which contained false statements and false information, both through false entries and by omitting true entries, and did so with intent to defraud New York City and its agencies, namely, to allow demolition, alteration, and construction on Staten Island, without the need for asbestos abatement.

With reference to the former Mount Manresa site in Fort Wadsworth (239 Fingerboard Rd.), three private residential homes (62 Seaview Ave., 24 Elmbank St., and 36 Ardmore Ave.), and a commercial property

(4491 Amboy Rd.), the defendant(s) certified that the “entire building is free of asbestos containing material (ACM),” when they knew this was false.

With reference to three private residential homes (located at 7563 Amboy Rd., 76 Eagan Ave., and 195 Wolverine St.), defendant **GASPARE SANTORO**, certified that “a portion of the premises affected by the work is free of asbestos containing material (ACM),” when he knew this was false.

Moreover, pursuant to the terms of their licenses, and specific language contained in the ACP5s, this father/son team of professional engineers/certified asbestos investigators were required to “assume that some or all of the areas investigated contain ACM, and for each area that is not assumed to contain ACM, collect and submit for analysis bulk samples in accordance with DEP Asbestos Rules and EPA publications,” and both defendants failed to do so, despite declaring that the information provided in the ACP5s were “true and complete.”

The defendants were arraigned Wednesday in Staten Island Supreme Court and released on their own recognizance.

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Assistant District Attorneys David Frey, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Bureau, is handling the prosecution of the case, under the direction of Assistant District Attorney Amy Legow, Chief of the Investigations Bureau.

The lead DOI investigator on the case was Assistant Inspector General Tiffany Dumas, working under the supervision of Inspector General Gregory Cho and direction of Senior Associate Commissioner Michael Carroll.

Carlstien Lutchmedial, director of Asbestos Enforcement, was the lead investigator for DEP.

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The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The defendants are facing multiple counts of Offering A False Instrument For Filing in the first degree, a class E felony, punishable by up to 4 years in prison if found guilty. They are also charged with multiple counts of Falsifying Business Records in the second degree, a class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year in prison if found guilty.

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