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DOI COMMISSIONER MARK G. PETERS' STATEMENT ON MISLEADING USE OF DOI'S 2013 REPORT ON THE NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS' OPERATIONS

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement regarding a misleading OpEd in the Wall Street Journal by Larry Levy ("Voter Fraud a Myth? That's Not What New York Investigators Found") that wrongly uses DOI's 2013 investigation on the New York City Board of Elections' operations.

Mr. Levy's OpEd claims DOI's Report found "real" voter fraud in this City and supports allegations of illegal voting by millions of undocumented immigrants. Mr. Levy misstates our findings.

Although DOI appreciates when the work of our office is highlighted, it is a concern when a Report we prepared, based on sound investigative steps, is used to support claims that are unsupported by any facts. Here, we did not substantiate a single instance of illegal voting. Rather, we found various systemic vulnerabilities including the failure to purge voters from the rolls who had died. However, our Report expressly stated that the evidence collected by the investigation was "not a finding of actual voter fraud." (Page 13).

As Mr. Levy has raised the subject of DOI's work, and its intersection with the immigrant community, I would like to note some of the crimes that we have prosecuted that did impact this community:

- In the past three years, working with City, State and federal prosecutors, we have arrested, 19 individuals and 13 companies, and DOI has made recoveries of approximately \$4 million, primarily taken from recent immigrants to this country.
- Last year, working with the Manhattan District Attorney, we prosecuted Harco Inc. for manslaughter, after they deliberately bypassed safety procedures and killed a young worker on their site. He too was a recent immigrant to this country.

These are real crimes, with real victims, being pursued by law enforcement agencies. Unsubstantiated and irresponsible claims of voter fraud, not only distract from this work, they hinder law enforcement activities needed to keep all of us safe. Such baseless allegations can sow fear and distrust among many New Yorkers, making them less likely to work with law enforcement. Our work is important, and challenging enough in the best of times; broad generalizations, unsupported by facts, do not serve the public.

A full copy of DOI's 2013 Report can be found at the following link:

http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doi/downloads/pdf/2013/dec13/pr40boerpt_123013.pdf

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. 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. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

**DOI's press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Bribery and Corruption are a Trap. Don't Get Caught Up. Report It at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**