



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INSPECTOR  
ON BRIBERY AND OTHER CHARGES**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), in partnership with Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, announced the arrest today of an Air Pollution Inspector with the City's Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") on bribery charge and an additional weapon possession offense. According to the criminal complaint and the investigation, SEAN RICHARDSON-DANIEL accepted cash in exchange for not issuing a Stop Work Order ("SWO") on a property in Brooklyn in which he said he found various issues; however, in actuality there were no active DEP complaints on the property. Additionally, brass knuckles were found in the defendant's DEP-assigned car while the vehicle was being transported for maintenance. The office of Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez is prosecuting the case. The investigation is ongoing.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This inspector's job is to safeguard the City's air and water and enforce the environmental laws, instead he exploited his position in exchange for cash, according to the charges. Combating serious offenses like bribery is at the core of DOI's mission to eliminate municipal corruption. With our partners like the Brooklyn District Attorney, we will continue to pursue City workers who believe that getting a payout is more important than their sworn duties as public servants."

Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, "By allegedly soliciting a cash bribe from an owner at a construction site this defendant facilitated shortcuts that could endanger lives and undermine the public's trust in city government. Honest inspections keep workers and citizens safe, especially now during Brooklyn's booming real estate market."

RICHARDSON-DANIEL, 53, of Brooklyn, N.Y., is charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony; and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint and the investigation, RICHARDSON-DANIEL was conducting an inspection at 222 Pulaski St. in Brooklyn on December 4, 2015, and asked to speak with an owner or electrician at the property. RICHARDSON-DANIEL told an individual he believed was a representative of the property, but who was a Confidential Informant ("CI") that he would be issuing a SWO for various issues with the property. However, there were no complaints or active violations at that location. The defendant told the CI a partial SWO or full SWO could end up costing anywhere between \$25,000 to \$50,000. The defendant then stated he would come back to the address three days later to pick up \$15,000 in exchange for not issuing the SWO. On December 7, 2015, RICHARDSON-DANIEL went back to the address and was caught on audio recordings stating to the CI that he could help change any future violations at the property. When asked by the CI if the meeting would help ensure that other agencies did not conduct inspections, the defendant stated, probably not, but, "I know what I'm doing" and "I'll look out for you as much as I could. I'm going to be in the area for the next two months." The

defendant then confirmed that he was writing off the complaint. The CI pulled out a white envelope containing cash, and the two entered the CI's vehicle, where the CI counted out the \$1,500 in cash and gave it to RICHARDSON-DANIEL, who accepted the payment.

Separately, on November 28, 2016, DEP transported the defendant's DEP-assigned car to a DEP maintenance facility and discovered a pair of brass knuckles. When questioned about the brass knuckles, RICHARDSON-DANIEL said that he had found them six or more weeks before on a sidewalk, picked them up, and left them in the car.

RICHARDSON-DANIEL joined DEP as an Air Pollution Inspector in December 2004, resigned from his position yesterday, on January 3, 2017, and at that time was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$50,026.

DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Acting Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and Acting DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General, specifically Special Investigator Adam Ondira, Chief Investigator James McElligot, Assistant Inspector General Michael Antolini, and Deputy Inspector General Ed Zinser, under the supervision of Inspector General Gregory Cho, Associate Commissioner James Flaherty, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

This case is being prosecuted by the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, specifically Assistant District Attorneys Adam Libove and Renee Hassel, a DOI attorney who has been assigned to the District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Michael Spanakos, under the overall supervision of William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the Investigations Division, and Patricia McNeill, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*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.*

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