



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER  
COMMISSIONER

180 MAIDEN LANE  
NEW YORK, NY 10038  
212-825-5900

Release #22-2022  
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**BROOKLYN WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO SCHEME THAT DEFRAUDED NEW YORK CITY  
COVID-19 HOTEL ROOM ISOLATION PROGRAM OF OVER \$400,000**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the guilty plea of TATIANA DANIEL in connection with her participation in a scheme that defrauded New York City's COVID-19 Hotel Room Isolation Program of more than \$400,000. DOI worked with the New York Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York on this investigation.

DANIEL, 28, of Brooklyn, N.Y., pled guilty in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, before U.S. Magistrate Judge Ona T. Wang, to one felony count of Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud. Upon conviction, this offense is punishable by up to five years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for March 29, 2023, at 2:30 p.m.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This defendant used the Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on New York City as an opportunity for fraud and personal profit. Through an extensive criminal scheme, she created false documents, defrauded a critical City program that provided free hotel rooms to patients and healthcare workers, committed unemployment benefits fraud, and illegally obtained COVID-19 loans. The City Office of Emergency Management reported this matter to DOI, allowing us to join with our federal partners to immediately investigate and stop this fraud."

According to the superseding information and DOI's investigation, DANIEL participated in a scheme to defraud the City's hotel isolation program – which provided free hotel rooms for patients convalescing from COVID-19 and for healthcare workers who needed to self-isolate due to exposure – by falsely claiming to be a healthcare worker, misappropriating actual healthcare workers' identifying information, and using Facebook to advertise fraudulently-obtained Program hotel rooms to individuals who did not meet the Program's requirements. In connection with the scheme, DANIEL also operated a fraudulent document mill through which she sold fabricated COVID-19 test results; committed unemployment benefits fraud in multiple states; and illegally obtained COVID-19 loans funded through both the United States Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan program.

DANIEL was charged in October 2021, along with three other co-defendants whose charges remain pending. To view the release on these October 2021 arrests, please click on this link: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doi/press-releases/2021/October/COVID-19HotelFraudPR.10.05.2021.pdf>

Commissioner Strauber thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams and his staff for the prosecution of this matter, which was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Michael Neff of the Complex Frauds and Cybercrime Unit; and Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent-in-Charge,

more

New York Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General and his staff for their partnership on the investigation. Commissioner Strauber also thanked New York City Emergency Management Commissioner Zachary Iscol and his staff for their cooperation on this investigation.

At DOI, this investigation was conducted by Confidential Investigator Hope Stagnaro, under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Aleksandro Tilka, Deputy Inspector General Arturo Sanchez, Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella, and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort.

Indictments are accusations. Defendants are 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.*

**DOI's press releases can also be found at [twitter.com/NYC\\_DOI](https://twitter.com/NYC_DOI)  
Know something rotten in City government? Help DOI Get the Worms Out of the Big Apple.  
Call: 212-3-NYC-DOI or email: [Corruption@DOI.nyc.gov](mailto:Corruption@DOI.nyc.gov)**