



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
ERIC LENKOWITZ
(212) 825-5931

**FORMER NYCHA SUPERVISOR CONVICTED OF SOLICITING AND RECEIVING A BRIBE
SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS IN PRISON AND \$100,000 FINE**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of LEROY GIBBS, a Resident Buildings Superintendent for the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"), before U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon in the Southern District of New York. GIBBS was sentenced to 33 months in prison, three years' supervised release, and 360 hours of community service and was ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine and \$4,000 in forfeiture and restitution. GIBBS will surrender on May 8, 2023. In October 2022, GIBBS, 58, of Bay Shore, N.Y., pled guilty to one felony count of receipt of a bribe by an agent of an organization receiving federal funds, in connection with the award of no-bid contracts. The office of Damian Williams, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York is prosecuting this matter.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Instead of acting in the best interests of NYCHA and its residents, this now-former NYCHA supervisor used his position and his authority to enrich himself by awarding contracts in exchange for kickbacks. This kind of corruption will not be tolerated and as today's proceeding shows, it warrants a significant penalty. DOI thanks the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the New York Regional Office of the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for working hand-in-hand with DOI to bring this investigation to a successful conclusion."

According to the criminal complaint, in September 2019, GIBBS, then-employed as the Resident Buildings Superintendent at Frederick Douglass Houses in Manhattan, N.Y., solicited and accepted approximately \$2,000 in bribes from a NYCHA vendor, who was acting as a confidential informant for DOI, in exchange for awarding that vendor two jobs at a NYCHA property that were valued at just under \$10,000 in total.

GIBBS awarded these contracts for construction and repair work, which, because they were valued at less than \$10,000, were not subject to competitive bidding requirements. GIBBS began employment with NYCHA in April 1987 and as a Resident Buildings Superintendent was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$93,630. He retired in September 2022, after he was charged in this case.

In a separate matter, a second NYCHA Superintendent, JULIO FIGUEROA, 45, currently of Pennsylvania, pled guilty in November 2022 to accepting bribes for awarding no-bid contracts and is scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow, on February 9, 2023. FIGUEROA resigned from NYCHA in December 2022.

Commissioner Strauber thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams and Assistant United States Attorneys Catherine Ghosh and Robert Sobelman of the Public Corruption Unit, who prosecuted this case. Commissioner Strauber also thanked Christina Scaringi, Special Agent in Charge, New York Regional Office of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Inspector General and her staff, for their partnership on the investigation; and NYCHA Chair Gregory Russ and Interim Chief Executive Officer Lisa Bova-Hiatt for their agency's cooperation.

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DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA handled this investigation, including DOI Confidential Investigator Delcine Doscher, Assistant Inspector General Enio Bencosme, First Assistant Inspector General Robin Jacknow, Deputy Inspector General Gregory DeBoer, and Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, and was supervised by Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort.

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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