



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #35-2023  
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

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

**REMARKS OF DOI COMMISSIONER JOCELYN E. STRAUBER  
REGARDING BRIBERY, CONSPIRACY INDICTMENTS AGAINST  
FORMER DOB COMMISSIONER ERIC ULRICH, MULTIPLE NYC BUSINESS OWNERS**

Thank you, D.A. Bragg, and the dedicated prosecutors, Inspectors General and investigators in both of our offices, for your work on this important case.

The criminal conduct alleged here is clear-cut – a high-level City government official agreed to sell his access and his influence to his co-defendants, in exchange for over \$150,000 worth of cash and gifts, including a discounted beachfront property and season tickets to the Mets. As described in detail in the charging documents, Mr. Ulrich, while a City Councilmember, a Senior Advisor to the Mayor, and the City Buildings Commissioner used his positions to personally profit – expediting inspections, taking steps to advance a real estate development project, and getting City government jobs for his co-defendants' relatives.

As charged, Eric Ulrich acted not in the public interest, but in his personal, financial interest; and to hide his conduct, he omitted his bribery income from his annual financial disclosure filings, also in violation of the law. The Annual Financial Disclosure process in the City requires transparency with respect to certain public official's finances to identify and to prevent prohibited conflicts between public duties and private interests. It is an important part of the City's efforts to ensure integrity in government. The process is particularly important for the position of Buildings Commissioner, who oversees the construction industry, which impacts the City's economy as well as New Yorkers' safety and quality of life. But this financial disclosure process requires that a public official provides complete and truthful information.

Thankfully, this investigation has not identified any public health or safety issues caused by the conduct charged here, although we will be requesting at least one re-inspection in an abundance of caution. But make no mistake, the alleged criminal conduct does real damage. It limits the public's trust in government. It undermines the expectation that our public officials, who have tremendous power and authority, will act with honor and integrity. It weakens our faith that they will do their duty to put public good before personal benefit and to strive for equity in the distribution of government services, not confer special favors for money.

This investigation and these indictments show that when a public official puts New York City up for sale and uses their government office, influence and relationships to enrich themselves, they will be held accountable.

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)