



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  
(212) 825-5931**

### **FORMER CITY PARKS SUPERVISOR ENTERS GUILTY PLEA TO HARASSING A SUBORDINATE AT BRONX PARK**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced a former Supervisor at the City Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) pled guilty today to threatening and harassing conduct toward a subordinate, which occurred inside a maintenance closet at a park located on East 156<sup>th</sup> Street in the Bronx between July and August 2021. DOI’s investigation was prompted by allegations reported by DPR. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Darcel Clark is prosecuting the case.

FRANCISCO BRACERO, 64, of New York, N.Y., who is also known as “Cisco,” was charged in July 2023 with Forcible Touching, a class A misdemeanor; Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor; and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Today, BRACERO entered a guilty plea to Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation, and was sentenced to a conditional discharge. An order of protection for the victim was imposed.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “The City should have zero tolerance for any City employee who victimizes another with threatening and harassing behavior, as this defendant did. Today, this now former City employee faces the consequences of his misconduct. I thank the complainant for reporting this unacceptable conduct to the Parks Department, the Parks Department for informing DOI of that report, and the Bronx District Attorney’s Office for their continued partnership on these important prosecutions.”

According to the criminal complaint, between July 15, 2021 and August 2, 2021, inside of 720 East 156<sup>th</sup> Street, in the Bronx, BRACERO grabbed the buttocks of a female subordinate with his hand, without her consent, and stated that he wanted to grab her breast. This conduct caused her alarm and fear for her physical safety, according to the complaint.

BRACERO began working for DPR in July 2002 and was an active DPR Supervisor at the time of the alleged conduct. When he retired in September 2022, BRACERO was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$80,262.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Bronx County District Attorney Darcel D. Clark, specifically Assistant District Attorney Jevet T. Johnson who is handling the prosecution, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Francis Alberts. Commissioner Strauber also thanked DPR Commissioner Sue Donoghue and her staff, including DPR’s Advocate’s Office.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Special Investigators Jael Montenegro and Heather Smith of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DPR, and supervised by Deputy Inspectors General Jordan Buff and William Cheung, Inspector General Juve Hippolyte, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

*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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