



ALVIN L. BRAGG JR.,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2023

Contact: Emily Tuttle, tuttle@dany.nyc.gov

**D.A. BRAGG, D.O.I. COMMISS. ANNOUNCE SWEEPING BRIBERY,
CONSPIRACY INDICTMENTS AGAINST FORMER DOB
COMMISSIONER ERIC ULRICH, MULTIPLE ASSOCIATES**

Ulrich Charged in Five Separate, Wide-Ranging [Indictments](#) for Accepting More Than \$150,000 Worth of Bribes as New York City Councilmember, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, and New York City Department of Buildings Commissioner

Read the Statement of Facts [Here](#)

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber today announced the indictments of former New York City Department of Buildings (“DOB”) Commissioner ERIC ULRICH, 38, for misusing his authority in every public service position he held – as a New York City Councilmember, then a Senior Advisor to the Mayor of New York City, and finally as DOB Commissioner – to benefit his friends and associates in exchange for bribes. He faces five separate New York State Supreme indictments charging him with various counts of Conspiracy, Bribe Receiving, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing. He is charged alongside six associates, including business owners JOSEPH LIVRERI, 55; ANTHONY LIVRERI, 51; and MICHAEL MAZZIO, 54; real estate development CEO MARK CALLER, 51; DOB Filing Representative PAUL GREGO, 73, a/k/a Dominick Grego, a/k/a Domenick Russo; and former Department of Correction (“DOC”) Officer VICTOR TRUTA, 53; who face various counts of Bribery. [\[1\]](#)

[1] The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.

D.A. Bragg said: “We allege that Eric Ulrich accepted or solicited more than \$150,000 worth of bribes in less than two years by monetizing each elected and appointed role he held in New York City government. At every possible turn, he allegedly used his taxpayer-funded positions as City Councilmember, then Senior Mayoral Advisor, and finally Department of Buildings Commissioner to line his pockets. Government officials must abide by the law and uphold their duty to the People of New York. Particularly when a public servant runs an agency that affects the lives of millions – from residents of apartments to the workers that build them – we must hold them to the highest standard. Thank you to our law enforcement partners at the Department of Investigation for helping us do so today.”

DOI Commissioner Strauber said: “Government officials who use their positions to enrich themselves betray the trust placed in them to act in the public interest. Eric Ulrich, as Buildings Commissioner, Senior Advisor to the Mayor and City Councilmember, monetized his influence in exchange for \$150,000 in cash and gifts from the other defendants, promising them favors such as expedited inspections and City employment for their relatives, according to the charges. As this case shows, we will pursue bribery at any level of New York City government to the full extent of the law, and we thank the Manhattan DA’s Office for their longstanding partnership and shared commitment to our mission to eradicate corruption.”

The Manhattan D.A.’s Rackets Bureau’s investigation into this matter and included court-ordered electronic surveillance and search warrants, physical surveillance, testimony and analysis of financial and government records from various city agencies.

According to court documents, since at least 2021, ULRICH solicited and received more than \$150,000 worth of cash and gifts from multiple sources, including JOSEPH LIVRERI, ANTHONY LIVRERI, MAZZIO, GREGO, and TRUTA. ULRICH also failed to disclose income on each of his annual financial disclosures he was required to file with the New York City Conflicts of Interests Board pursuant to City law from 2017 through 2021.

Joseph Livreri, Anthony Livreri, Michael Mazzio

ULRICH repeatedly misused his positions of authority as a New York City Councilmember, then a Senior Advisor to Mayor Eric Adams, and finally as DOB Commissioner to benefit his friends and associates in exchange for bribes, including cash to fund his gambling at both public and illegal casinos.

While he was a City Councilmember, ULRICH hired JOSEPH LIVRERI as a part-time aide until the end of ULRICH’s term in 2021. In 2022, as Senior Advisor, ULRICH attempted to secure JOSEPH LIVRERI a new position in New York City government. JOSEPH LIVRERI omitted or falsified information on employment documentation that would have disqualified him from working for the City, including his residency in Nassau County and his partial ownership of an illegal gambling club in Ozone Park called the 89th Street Café. JOSEPH LIVRERI acted as an intermediary between ULRICH and other co-conspirators, insulating ULRICH from the ongoing bribery scheme.

Between January 5, 2021, and November 1, 2022, ULRICH allegedly used his positions to benefit JOSEPH LIVRERI, his brother ANTHONY LIVRERI, and their associate MICHAEL MAZZIO. ULRICH:

- Expedited a health inspection at the LIVRERI brothers’ restaurant “Aldo’s Pizza” after they were closed due to multiple health violations.
- Helped remove a vacate order for the “Fortunato Brothers Bakery” after the business was shut down due to a fire at the LIVRERI brothers’ request.

- Attempted to resolve licensing issues with the Department of Consumer and Workers Protection for MAZZIO's towing company, "Mike's Heavy Duty Towing," in part through attempts to influence the appointment of the Department Commissioner.
- Secured a position as a Policy Analyst in the Department of Correction for MAZZIO's daughter, which included a raise of approximately \$20,000.
- Gave his co-conspirators access to high-ranking officials within New York City government through invites to exclusive events and dinners.

In exchange, JOSEPH LIVRERI, ANTHONY LIVRERI, and MAZZIO gave ULRICH cash which he used in part to fund his gambling at public casinos and at the 89th Street Café, as well as a premium season ticket package to the New York Mets, valued at nearly \$10,000.

Mark Caller

Between December 17, 2021, and November 1, 2022, ULRICH also allegedly used his positions of authority to benefit CALLER, the CEO of the Marcal Group, a real estate development firm. Acting with the purported authority of the Mayor's Office, ULRICH:

- Attempted to influence the NYC Department of City Planning in an effort to secure a zoning change for a commercial lot in Rockaway Park so the Marcal Group could construct a new mixed-use, residential and commercial building.
- Influenced the DOB and the NYC Fire Department to conduct an inspection of a multiple-dwelling building for low-income residents next door to the lot, in hopes of securing a vacate order.
- Connected CALLER to other high-ranking DOB employees to expedite various requests for Marcal Group projects.

In exchange, CALLER secured ULRICH a significantly discounted beachfront two-bedroom apartment in one of Marcal's luxury buildings, with perks including full furnishing and a free parking space.

Paul Grego

Between November 30, 2021, and November 1, 2022, ULRICH also allegedly used his positions of authority to benefit GREGO, a DOB Filing Representative, and GREGO's clients. ULRICH:

- Assisted with the issuance of a "Temporary Certificate of Occupancy" to the owners of Ridgewood restaurant "Café Rum," GREGO's client, so they could secure a liquor license from the New York State Liquor Authority.
- As DOB Commissioner, attempted to hire and reassign DOB personnel based on GREGO's requests.
- Connected GREGO to other high-ranking DOB employees to expedite his clients' applications.

In exchange, GREGO purchased a bespoke suit for ULRICH, and procured a painting by Francisco Poblet – the last surviving apprentice of Salvador Dali – as a gift from ULRICH to his girlfriend.

Victor Truta

Finally, ULRICH accepted money from TRUTA, a former NYC Correction Officer, to intervene with the former NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner in order to secure jobs for TRUTA's family members.

Acknowledgments

Assistant D.A.s Guy Tardanico and Denise Vasel are handling the prosecution of this case under the supervision of Assistant D.A.s Michael Ohm (Deputy Chief of the Rackets Bureau), Judy Salwen (Principal Deputy Chief of the Rackets Bureau) and Jodie Kane (Chief of the Rackets Bureau and Acting Chief of the Investigation Division).

Assisting with the investigation were Investigators Alex Cinque, Jacob Diamond, Genesis De Luna, and Sean Lucas; Senior Investigators Gerald Bergold, Robert Mistretta, Anthony Santoro, Daniel Fooks, and Joseph Monroig; Former Senior Investigator Shannon Rowe; and Supervising Investigators Patrick O'Brien and Max Adler; under the supervision of Assistant Chief Rackets Investigator Michael Wigdor, Assistant Chief of the Investigation Bureau Jonathan Reid, and Chief Investigator Walter Alexander. Assistant D.A. Caroline Serino, Computer Forensics Analyst Laura Estevez, Former Investigative Analyst Philetus Holt, Investigative Analyst Robert Woolf, and Trial Preparation Assistants Alex Millard and Sara Scanlan provided assistance.

At DOI, the case was investigated by multiple squads, including the Offices of the Inspectors General for Elected Officials, Department of Buildings ("DOB"), Fire Department ("FDNY"), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH"), Department of Consumer and Worker Protection ("DCWP"), Department of City Planning ("DCP"), Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") and Department of Correction ("DOC"), under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

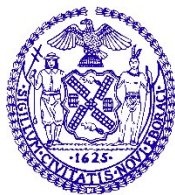
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1 Hogan Pl, New York, NY 10013

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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
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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.

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ALVIN L. BRAGG JR.,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2023

Contact: Doug Cohen, cohend@dany.nyc.gov

**D.A. BRAGG ANNOUNCES GUILTY PLEA AND SENTENCING OF FORMER CHIEF OF
MAYOR DE BLASIO'S SECURITY DETAIL**

*Former NYPD Inspector Howard Redmond Admits to Repeatedly Obstructing DOI Investigation and Tampering
with Evidence*

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr., today announced the guilty plea and sentencing of NYPD Inspector HOWARD REDMOND, 58, for obstructing a New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") probe into former Mayor Bill de Blasio's use of his security detail by repeatedly impeding investigators and tampering with evidence. REDMOND, who was the chief of Mayor de Blasio's security detail, pleaded guilty to two counts of Tampering with Physical Evidence; two counts of Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree; and two counts of Official Misconduct. As part of his guilty plea, REDMOND was terminated from the NYPD, admitted to his conduct in a sworn Affirmation submitted to the court, and issued an apology to DOI. He was sentenced to a conditional discharge and will be required to fulfill ten days of community service.

"Inspector Redmond engaged in a clear and brazen pattern of obstruction and tampering throughout the entirety of DOI's investigation," said **District Attorney Bragg**. "Position and rank do not exempt anyone from cooperating and participating with a law enforcement investigation, and we will continue to hold accountable any public official who thinks the rules do not apply to them. I thank our prosecutors for their diligent and thorough investigation into this matter, and to DOI for their critical assistance and partnership."

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Former Inspector Redmond deliberately obstructed an active DOI investigation, ignoring repeated requests for his cell phone and then purposefully deleting critical text

messages. Today's guilty plea and sentencing underscore his serious criminal conduct and reflect a complete disregard for his sworn oath as a police officer. The Manhattan District Attorney's prosecution of Redmond is a powerful statement that no one is above the law."

As admitted in his guilty plea, beginning in January 2014 REDMOND oversaw Mayor de Blasio's Executive Protection Unit ("EPU"). In August 2019, DOI began investigating allegations that Mayor de Blasio had misused security detail resources. In late 2019 and early 2020, DOI sent the NYPD multiple requests for documents, including emails and text messages, that were shared with REDMOND. On multiple occasions, REDMOND stated he did not have any documents responsive to DOI's specific request, but did not take any action to determine whether responsive documents existed before making this representation.

In January 2021, DOI sent a broader request to NYPD for all text messages and other communications between specific members of the security detail and City Hall personnel, including Mayor de Blasio. Again, these requests were shared with REDMOND, and he took no steps to provide responsive records, either at that time or in the following months.

In May 2021, City Hall attempted to collect REDMOND'S City-Hall-issued cell phone during its efforts to comply with DOI's requests.

On July 19, 2021, after REDMOND had ignored repeated requests to turn in this phone, DOI Commissioner Margaret Garnett e-mailed the NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Legal Matters to personally seek assistance in obtaining REDMOND'S phone, writing, "after more than two months of requests from both the [City Hall] Counsel's office and your office, the Inspector still has not provided his phone."

The next day, the Deputy Chief of the NYPD's Intelligence Division ordered REDMOND to turn over his City-Hall-issued phone. That same day, REDMOND handed the phone in, but had deleted text messages from the device, including texts with members of the security detail. He did not inform NYPD Legal that he had deleted the messages, nor did he mention he had previously activated an auto-deletion setting that erased messages after 30 days.

When the full phone data was extracted and compared with other EPU phones, DOI discovered thousands of text messages missing from his device.

DOI then asked REDMOND to turn over a separate NYPD-issued phone. On July 29, 2021, after communicating with NYPD Legal several times about DOI's request, REDMOND gave the phone to an EPU detective. He directed the detective to bring it to the NYPD Information Technology Bureau ("ITB") and exchange it for a new phone. Under standard ITB protocol, all data is erased from the original phone, including text messages and other messaging data, when it is turned in.

On August 3, 2021, REDMOND had the EPU Detective provide his new phone to NYPD Legal. REDMOND did not inform anyone else that he had swapped out the original phone containing the messaging data that DOI had been requesting for months.

After DOI's review revealed that the phone REDMOND turned in contained no data prior to July 29, 2021, DOI uncovered the phone swap and recovered the original phone before the data on it had been erased. Data extracted from the original phone showed that REDMOND had previously turned on a 30-day auto-deletion setting and had also manually deleted messages.

In October 2021, DOI issued its final investigative report and referred REDMOND's conduct to the Manhattan D.A.'s Office for possible criminal prosecution.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant D.A. Samantha Dworken under the supervision of Assistant D.A. Nick Viorst (Chief of the Police Accountability Unit). Senior Investigator Michael Greenwood and Investigative Analysts Alessandro Getzel and Rivka Zimm also assisted with the case.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Assistant Inspector General Matin Modarressi, Inspector General Juve Hippolyte and Senior Inspector General Eleonora Rivkin.

D.A. Bragg thanked DOI for its assistance throughout the Office's investigation.

DEFENDANT INFORMATION:

Howard Redmond

Suffolk County, New York

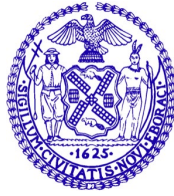
Convicted:

- Tampering with Physical Evidence, a class E felony, two counts
- Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, two counts
- Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, two counts

Sentenced:

- Conditional Discharge

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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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

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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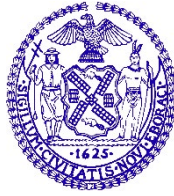
DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA handled this investigation, including DOI Confidential Investigator Delcine Doscher, Assistant Inspector General Enio Bencosme, First Assistant Inspector General Robin Jacknow, Deputy Inspector General Gregory DeBoer, and Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, 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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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023**

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

SECOND FORMER NYCHA SUPERVISOR SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES TO DOLE OUT NO-BID CONTRACTS

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued a statement today on the sentencing of JULIO FIGUEROA, an Assistant Resident Buildings Superintendent for the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA"), who accepted approximately \$6,000 in bribes in exchange for awarding no-bid contracts to a confidential informant ("CI"). FIGUEROA pled guilty in November 2022 to receipt of a bribe by an agent or organization receiving federal funds. On Thursday, February 9, 2023, U.S. District Judge Denise L. Cote sentenced FIGUEROA to 15 months in prison and three years' supervised release, and ordered him to pay \$12,000 in forfeiture and restitution. DOI investigated this matter in partnership with the office of Damian Williams, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This NYCHA Assistant Superintendent had a responsibility to maintain NYCHA buildings and protect public funds, instead he used the City Housing Authority's no-bid contract process for his own benefit, making thousands of dollars in illegal kickbacks. This sentence conveys that municipal employees who bribe City contractors will face serious consequences. I want to thank our partners at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York for the successful prosecution of this matter and the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its collaboration on this investigation."

According to the criminal complaint, between July 2021 and August 2022, FIGUEROA, then employed as the Assistant Resident Buildings Superintendent at the Bailey Ave - W 193 St. and Fort Independence Street-Heath Avenue developments in the Bronx, solicited and accepted approximately \$6,000 in bribes from a CI in exchange for awarding no-bid NYCHA contracts that were valued at a total of approximately \$46,622. According to the complaint, in discussions with the CI about the bribe amounts, FIGUEROA first told the CI to pay whatever the CI was comfortable with; later FIGUEROA proposed a bribe of between \$700 and \$1,000 per no-bid contract of approximately \$5,000.

FIGUEROA began employment at NYCHA in May 1999. His annual salary was approximately \$76,064 at the time of his resignation in December 2022, one month after his guilty plea in this matter.

In a separate matter Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, former NYCHA Superintendent LEROY GIBBS was sentenced to 33 months in prison, and ordered to pay a \$100,000 fine and \$4,000 in forfeiture and restitution for soliciting and accepting 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, in total, at just under \$10,000. For more details on that sentencing, click here: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doi/press-releases/2023/Feb/03GibbsSent02.08.2023.pdf>

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Commissioner Strauber thanked U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Damian Williams and Assistant U.S. 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.

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, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort.

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UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Southern District of New York

U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 26, 2023
<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nys>

CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
Nicholas Biase
(212) 637-2600

**TWO SUPERVISORS CHARGED WITH FEDERAL CRIMES IN
CONNECTION WITH BEATING OF 16-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT AT
BRONX JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER**

Daquan Seymour and Rashawn Walker, Two Supervisors at the Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx, New York, Allegedly Assaulted a 16-Year-Old Resident and Attempted to Conceal Their Crimes by Preparing False Reports

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Jocelyn E. Strauber, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today criminal charges against DAQUAN SEYMOUR and RASHAWN WALKER, two supervisors at the Horizon Juvenile Center ("Horizon"), a secure detention center for juveniles located in the Bronx, New York. The charges relate to the April 25, 2022, beating of a 16-year-old resident at Horizon (the "Minor Victim") and attempt to cover-up the beating. SEYMOUR and WALKER were charged with federal civil rights offenses, including conspiring to deprive the Minor Victim of his constitutional rights and depriving the Minor Victim of his constitutional rights under color of law, as well as filing false reports. SEYMOUR and WALKER were arrested this morning and will be presented in Manhattan federal court later today. The case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge Edgardo Ramos.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Today's charges allege a violent beating and a brazen cover-up by two supervisors at a juvenile detention facility in the Bronx that left a teenage resident seriously injured. Instead of safeguarding the youth that they were entrusted with protecting, Seymour and Walker violently dragged, punched, and stomped on the minor and then took steps to conceal the beating. My Office is committed to protecting the constitutional rights of all New Yorkers, including minors residing at youth detention facilities, and will ensure that those who abuse their authority are held accountable."

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said: "Defendants Seymour and Walker, ACS supervisors, had a duty to protect the youth residing in the Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx. Instead, they taunted and violently beat a 16-year-old resident, resulting in bodily injuries requiring medical care, and attempted to hide their disturbing misconduct by filing false reports, as alleged in the Indictment. Juvenile residents in custody should never be victimized by those entrusted with their safety. I thank the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District

of New York for their partnership in this investigation and in our efforts to protect the rights of juveniles in detention centers.”

According to the allegations in the Indictment unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:¹

On or about April 25, 2022, SEYMOUR and WALKER were employed as Associate Youth Development Specialists at the Horizon Juvenile Center (“Horizon”), a secure detention center for juveniles located in the Bronx, New York, that was operated by the New York City Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”). Associate Youth Development Specialists at Horizon are responsible for, among other things, supervising other staff members and ensuring the safety of all juvenile residents.

At the time of the beating, the Minor Victim was a 16-year-old pre-trial juvenile resident at Horizon. Following a confrontation between several staff members and juvenile residents at Horizon, including the Minor Victim, SEYMOUR and WALKER violently dragged the Minor Victim by his forearms across the floor of a residential hall and into a private room (the “Room”). Once inside the Room, SEYMOUR and WALKER beat the Minor Victim, striking him repeatedly and forcefully as the Minor Victim lay on the floor. SEYMOUR and WALKER took steps to restrain the Minor Victim, including by pinning down the Minor Victim’s hands. WALKER also stomped on the Minor Victim’s stomach and groin area. Both SEYMOUR and WALKER taunted and directed profanities at the Minor Victim during the beating. As a result of the beating, the Minor Victim suffered bodily injuries, including a deep laceration to his upper lip area, which required the Minor Victim to be transported to a nearby hospital for medical care.

Following the beating of the Minor Victim, SEYMOUR and WALKER attempted to cover up their participation in the beating. In particular, both SEYMOUR and WALKER prepared Horizon incident reports that described the confrontation between Horizon residents and staff members that immediately preceded the assault but failed to disclose that they dragged or physically assaulted the Minor Victim.

* * *

SEYMOUR, 33, of the Bronx, New York, and WALKER, 33, of Queens, New York, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to deprive civil rights, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison; one count of deprivation of rights under color of law, which carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison; and one count of falsification of records, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

The maximum potential sentences are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge.

Mr. Williams praised the efforts of the DOI for their outstanding work on this matter. Mr. Williams also thanked the Special Agents of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York for their significant assistance.

¹ As the introductory phrase signifies, the entirety of the text of the Indictment and the description of the Indictment set forth herein constitute only allegations, and every fact described should be treated as an allegation.

The prosecution of this case is being handled by the Office's Civil Rights Unit in the Criminal Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jamie Bagliebter and Mitzi S. Steiner are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

36-2023
For Immediate Release
June 20, 2023

**FDNY FIREFIGHTER INDICTED FOR STEALING CREDIT CARDS FROM
DECEASED PATIENT DURING EMS CALL
Defendant Charged \$250 in Merchandise and Attempted to Charge \$800 More**

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and New York City Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber today announced that a FDNY firefighter has been indicted on grand larceny, identity theft and other charges for stealing credit cards of a deceased patient during an emergency call and using them to charge hundreds of dollars in items.

District Attorney Clark said, “The defendant, a firefighter in the New York City Fire Department, allegedly stole an American Express card and a Mastercard while responding to a 911 call at the Manhattan home of a patient who died. A day later, the defendant allegedly went to various stores in the Bronx and made purchases using the stolen cards. These alleged actions are reprehensible, even more so because he is a member of the city’s Bravest and violated the public trust.”

Commissioner Strauber said, “This City firefighter, as alleged, was entrusted to provide emergency medical attention to New Yorkers in need. Instead, he used his position to steal the identity and credit cards of an individual he was called upon to help. The disgraceful charged conduct does not represent the compassion and integrity of the City’s first responders and I thank the Bronx District Attorney’s Office and the NYPD for their commitment to hold accountable those City employees who violate the trust placed in them.”

District Attorney Clark said Sylus McKenzie, 33, of the Bronx, was arraigned on June 15, 2023 on two counts of fourth degree Grand Larceny, Attempted Identity Theft in the second degree, third-degree Identity Theft, second-degree Criminal Impersonation, and Official Misconduct before Bronx Supreme Court Justice George Villegas. He is due back in court on September 7, 2023.

According to the investigation by the Bronx DA’s Public Integrity Bureau and DOI, on the night of January 11, 2021, the defendant, a FDNY Firefighter for about four years, responded to a 911 call for an unresponsive male at 231 East 50th Street in Manhattan. The man was pronounced



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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

dead shortly after the defendant arrived. After McKenzie left the scene and other first responders were preparing to seal the location, it was discovered that multiple credit cards of the decedent were missing from the apartment.

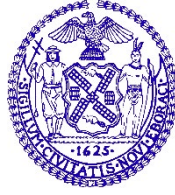
According to the investigation, on January 12, 2021, between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., multiple transactions were made, and attempted, on the decedent's missing credit cards. The defendant allegedly bought or tried to buy a total of \$1,123.21 in purchases at a Sunoco Gas Station, a Food Bazaar Supermarket, and AirPods at Target.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Teri Chung of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Sarah Clements, Supervisor of the Public Integrity Bureau, Allison Riesel, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and Omer Wiczyn, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kodjo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigations Division. District Attorney Clark thanked Assistant District Attorney John Oxenreiter, Supervisor of the Economic Crimes Bureau, and John Might, Senior Rackets Investigator of the BXDA Detective Investigator Squad, for their assistance in the investigation.

District Attorney Clark thanked the Department of Investigation, specifically Assistant Inspector General Jordan Buff in DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY, with the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Aleksandro Tilka, Deputy Inspector General Arturo Sanchez, Inspector General Audrey Feldman and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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The City of New York
Department of Investigation

JOCELYN E. STRAUBER
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #30-2023
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023**

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

**DOI ARRESTS FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN ON CHARGES OF
THEFT FROM UNDERCOVER POSING AS A PATIENT**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest on Wednesday, August 2, of an Emergency Medical Technician (“EMT”) employed by the New York City Fire Department (“FDNY”) on charges of stealing \$600 from a DOI undercover investigator posing as an ill patient. This type of undercover operation, also known as an integrity test, was prompted by theft allegations involving this EMT. The office of Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz is prosecuting the case.

LUIS A. CARRILLO, JR., 43, of Corona, N.Y., was charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, and Petit Larceny and Official Misconduct, both class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison; a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration. CARRILLO, JR., was arraigned in Queens Criminal Court late Wednesday night and released on his own recognizance. He is scheduled to return to court on October 6, 2023.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “This defendant took an oath to provide emergency medical assistance with diligence and compassion, but instead used his position to steal from an individual who appeared to be in need of care, according to the charges. The disgraceful charged conduct stands in stark contrast to the FDNY’s countless EMTs who act with honor and integrity every day, delivering critical care to New Yorkers in need. I thank the Queens District Attorney for the prosecution of this matter and the FDNY and NYC Health + Hospitals for their collaboration on this integrity test, which exposed the wrongdoing alleged in this case.

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said: “At our most vulnerable, we as a city should be able to trust those charged with our care. The city entrusts EMTs to do just that and that trust was allegedly violated in this case. Thank you to the Department of Investigation for their work. My office will hold the defendant to account.”

According to the criminal complaint, DOI conducted an integrity test at about 3:26 a.m. Wednesday, August 2, on Roosevelt Avenue in Queens, in which a DOI undercover investigator (the “Undercover”) posed as a patient in need of medical assistance. The Undercover was transported to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens (the “Hospital”) for treatment, in an ambulance staffed by the defendant, an EMT. During the transport the Undercover saw the defendant remove the Undercover’s wallet, which contained \$1,100 in marked bills. Once the Undercover was dropped off at the Hospital, he discovered that \$690 was missing from his wallet. A team of DOI investigators conducted surveillance of the operation, and stopped the

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ambulance after it left the Hospital. DOI investigators approached the defendant, who was in the ambulance, and recovered \$600 in marked bills from the defendant's front right pocket. Investigators did not find the additional \$90 that was missing from the undercover investigator's wallet. The defendant was immediately arrested.

CARRILLO, JR., has been employed as an EMT since October 2012, receives an annual salary of approximately \$59,534, and was suspended upon his arraignment on criminal charges.

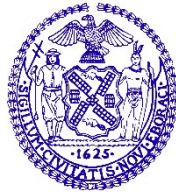
Commissioner Strauber thanked Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz, Public Corruption Bureau Chief Khadijah Muhammad-Starling, and Assistant District Attorney Vinnette Campbell, who is handling the prosecution of this case. Commissioner Strauber also thanked FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh and NYC Health + Hospitals President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mitchell Katz for their agencies' assistance with the logistics for the integrity test.

The investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Ian Spearman of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY, under the supervision of Assistant Inspector General Robert Miller, Deputy Inspector General Arturo Sanchez, Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/ Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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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180 MAIDEN LANE
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023**

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

**CURRENT AND FORMER CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH
STEALING GIFT CARDS MEANT FOR HIV & AIDS RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest yesterday of one current and one former employee of the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”), charged with stealing a total of 108 physical and electronic gift cards that DOHMH intended to distribute to HIV prevention program participants, from June 2017 to January 2022. DOI’s investigation was prompted by an anonymous complaint about gift card fraud and was conducted jointly with the Office of Queens County District Attorney Melinda Katz, which is handling the prosecution.

MAHBOOB BARI KHAN, 63, of New York, N.Y., a former DOHMH Deputy Director of Fiscal Administration and LISA BURGESS-THOMAS, 58, of Bronx, N.Y, a Fiscal Analyst at DOHMH, are charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year’s incarceration. On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, KHAN and BURGESS-THOMAS were arrested and arraigned in Queens Criminal Court and released on their own recognizance.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “These defendants were responsible for distributing gift cards that incentivize participation in critical public health programs — but instead used dozens of cards for their own benefit, according to the criminal complaints. I thank DOHMH for their cooperation in this investigation and the Queens District Attorney’s Office for its commitment to protect essential public health programs from fraud.”

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said, “Resources meant for the public good should never be used to line the pockets of City employees, as alleged with these Department of Health workers. Thank you to the Department of Investigation for their work on this case. My office will hold the defendants to account.”

DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasani said, “For our public health efforts to be successful, as we’ve learned with CoVID-19 and more, they must be built on a foundation of trust. If anyone - including those working on behalf of public health - violates the public trust, they must be held accountable, as in this case. Our integrity undergirds everything we do and we cannot allow it to be compromised.”

According to the criminal complaints, KHAN oversaw the ordering and distribution of gift cards for programs run by HIV Prevention, within the Bureau of Hepatitis, HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (“BHHS”), part of DOHMH’s Division of Disease Control. BURGESS-THOMAS directly reported to KHAN and was responsible for ordering, receiving and distributing both physical and electronic gift cards from the

more

vendor Omnicaard. The purpose of the gift cards is to encourage members of the public to participate in BHHS programs.

On August 18, 2020, a DOI investigator found 38 total Visa and Mastercard gift cards that were ordered for HIV Prevention on KHAN's desk. These gift cards were valued at a total of \$950 when ordered but no longer had funds on them. The investigation also found an additional 32 Amazon electronic gift cards, valued at a total of \$800, that were uploaded to an Amazon account in KHAN's name with a shipping address that matched the address in his personnel file. Based on a review of the business records of Omnicaard, the investigation found another six Visa and Mastercard gift cards valued at a total of \$450 that were used in KHAN's name. KHAN admitted to using gift cards for personal transactions, including three transactions at Time Warner Cable.

Investigators also discovered 32 purchases made with gift cards, a total of \$1,505, in the name of BURGESS-THOMAS, who admitted to using DOHMH gift cards for personal use. The investigation found that purchases were made in BURGESS-THOMAS's name from Bath and Body Works, Apple iTunes, Amazon, and Walmart.

KHAN, who began employment with DOHMH in April 1999, retired during this investigation in December 2022 with an annual salary of approximately \$110,754. BURGESS-THOMAS has worked for DOHMH since June 1989 and receives an annual salary of approximately \$94,847.

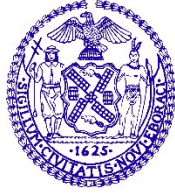
Commissioner Strauber thanked Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz, and the District Attorney's Public Integrity Bureau, which is handling this case, specifically Deputy Bureau Chief Christine Oliveri, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Khadijah Muhammad-Starling. Commissioner Strauber also thanked Dr. Ashwin Vasan, DOHMH Commissioner, and his staff for their cooperation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by First Deputy Inspector General Mary Kozlow under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Ann Petterson, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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COMMISSIONER

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NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #33-2023
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023

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

**FORMER ACS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST CHARGED
IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest yesterday of a former City Administration of Children's Services ("ACS") Youth Development Specialist ("YDS") on charges that he engaged in workers' compensation fraud, illegally obtaining over \$18,000. DOI's investigation was prompted by a report from another ACS employee that the defendant, while on leave, worked for Uber Eats food delivery service. The Office of Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark is prosecuting this case.

OBADIAH ISRAEL, 30, of Elmont, N.Y., is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Perjury in the First Degree, Insurance Fraud in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, all class D felonies; Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, Insurance Fraud in the Fourth Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fourth Degree and Penalties for Fraudulent Practices, all class E felonies; and Petit Larceny, Making an Apparently Sworn False Statement in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree and Insurance Fraud in the Fifth Degree, all class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

ISRAEL was arrested Wednesday and released on his own recognizance following his arraignment early Thursday morning in Bronx Criminal Court.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This former ACS employee collected workers' compensation benefits and falsely stated under oath that he had not returned to work for any employer, when in fact he was earning thousands of dollars as an Uber Eats delivery driver, according to the charges. I thank the ACS worker who reported this alleged corruption to DOI and the Bronx District Attorney's Office for their partnership in holding to account those who steal from the City by collecting benefits they are not entitled to."

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark said, "The defendant allegedly made more than \$19,000 working for Uber Eats while simultaneously claiming he was fully disabled and receiving over \$18,000 in worker's compensation benefits. Dishonest public employees will be held accountable for schemes to take taxpayer money that they did not lawfully earn. I thank DOI for working with our Investigations Division to root out corruption in our City."

According to DOI's investigation, during the timeframe of the alleged crimes, ISRAEL worked as a YDS at Horizon Juvenile Center ("Horizon") in the Bronx, where he was responsible for the supervision of residents.

According to the criminal complaint, ISRAEL submitted documents to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board in 2020 and 2021, including a workers' compensation claim and nine doctor's notes supporting the claim, and a

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reasonable accommodate request to ACS, in which ISRAEL falsely represented himself as wholly disabled and unable to work. As alleged, in September 2021, during a Workers' Compensation Board hearing, ISRAEL falsely stated under oath that he had not returned to work for any employer. The complaint alleges that as a result of these submissions and false statements, the New York State Workers' Compensation Board remitted approximately \$18,370 in unemployment benefits to ISRAEL, which he was not entitled to receive. Documents received from Uber, as well as bank records reviewed as part of the investigation, revealed that from August 2020 through September 2021, ISRAEL worked as a driver employed by Uber Eats, and was paid approximately \$19,695 by Uber during that period, as alleged in the complaint. The complaint also alleges that ISRAEL was observed playing basketball on June 2, 2021. He returned to full duty at ACS on February 8, 2022.

ISRAEL started as a YDS in June 2019, and was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$56,097 in April 2023, when he was terminated for reasons unrelated to DOI's investigation.

Commissioner Strauber thanked ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser and his staff for their cooperation in this investigation. Commissioner Strauber also thanked the Office of the New York State Inspector General and the New York State Workers' Compensation Board for their assistance with this investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Samantha Sizemore of the Bronx District Attorney's Economic Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Supervisor John Oxenreiter; Deputy Chief of the Bureau Michelle Milanes; Bureau Chief Herman Wun, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division Denise Kodjo and Chief of the Investigations Division Wanda Perez-Maldonado.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, and handled by Deputy Inspector General Harlyn Griffenberg, under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

52-2023
For Immediate Release
August 18, 2023

ACS EMPLOYEE AT HORIZON JUVENILE CENTER INDICTED FOR STEALING \$6,600 IN PAY FOR HOURS HE DIDN'T WORK

Bronx District Attorney Darcel D. Clark and NYC Department of Investigation Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber today announced that an Administration for Children's Services employee at Horizon Juvenile Center has been indicted on Grand Larceny charges for stealing \$6,600 by lying about his work hours.

District Attorney Clark said, "The defendant allegedly lied in his timesheets and was paid for nine full shifts and numerous other hours that he did not work, totaling \$6,600. City employees are entrusted with serving the public honestly. The defendant allegedly did the opposite and has now been indicted for his fraudulent actions."

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This ACS community coordinator, as charged, falsely overstated his hours worked at the Horizon Juvenile Center, where his job was to deliver commissary items to the residents and track behavioral issues. By claiming to work when he wasn't, including for nine full shifts and even overtime, he not only failed to meet his responsibilities to Horizon residents, he stole funds from the City, according to the Indictment. I thank ACS for referring this case to DOI and the Bronx District Attorney's Office for its commitment to protecting City funds from this kind of corruption and fraud."

District Attorney Clark said Michael Derico, 44, of the Bronx was indicted on third-degree Grand Larceny, fourth-degree Grand Larceny, nine counts of first-degree Falsifying Business Records, and nine counts of first-degree Offering a False Instrument for Filing before Bronx Supreme Court Justice Steven Hornstein. The defendant is due back in court on September 7, 2023.

According to the investigation, between December 2020 and March 2021, the defendant, an ACS Community Coordinator, either allegedly failed to appear at the facility, arrived at the facility later than his time sheet indicated, or departed earlier than his time sheet showed. Derico allegedly falsified his timesheets to make it appear as if he was at work for not only his scheduled time but also for overtime hours. The defendant was paid approximately \$6,600 from New York City for nine shifts and numerous other hours he did not work.



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DARCEL D. CLARK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY, BRONX COUNTY

198 EAST 161ST STREET
BRONX, N.Y. 10451
(718) 590-2234

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Aja Espinosa of the Public Integrity Bureau, under the supervision of Sarah Clements, Supervisor of the Public Integrity Bureau, Allison Riesel, Deputy Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and Omer Wiczyn, Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau, and under the overall supervision of Denise Kojo, Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division, and Wanda Perez-Maldonado, Chief of the Investigation Division.

District Attorney Clark thanked Trial Preparation Assistant Lakora Sarkodie of the Public Integrity Bureau, and former Assistant District Attorney Tracy Williams for their assistance with the case.

District Attorney Clark also thanked DOI Deputy Inspector General Harlyn Griffenberg for assistance in the investigation, under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant's guilt.

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**ALVIN L. BRAGG JR.,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2023

Contact: Kay Nguyen, nguyenk@dany.nyc.gov

**D.A. BRAGG, DOI COMMISSIONER STRAUBER ANNOUNCE ARREST OF CITY
WORKER FOR TIMESHEET FRAUD**

ACS Employee Submitted Falsified Timesheets While Traveling Abroad to Nigeria, Togo

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin L. Bragg, Jr. and New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”) Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber today announced the arrest of BOLA ALADE-GBAMI, 72, a NYC Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”) employee, for falsifying his timesheets and stealing taxpayer money by claiming he was working while he was either on vacation – including in Nigeria and Togo – or had not yet actually arrived at work.

ALADE-GBAMI is charged in a New York City Criminal Court felony complaint with 1 count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and 8 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree.^[1]

“This defendant swore an oath to serve the people of New York City but instead allegedly swindled thousands of dollars of taxpayer money through dishonesty,” said **District Attorney Bragg**. “Our charges include allegations that this city worker was supposedly clocking into work when he was actually traveling abroad in Africa. The Manhattan D.A.’s Office does not tolerate fraud in any form, and I thank the Department of Investigation for its ongoing partnership.”

DOI Commissioner Strauber said, “During a Citywide staffing shortage, this Child Welfare Specialist, as charged, clocked in while he was not working, including when he was traveling abroad, and claimed overtime hours that he never worked. This brazen misconduct, as alleged, is a violation of his duty to the City and to the public, and it is also a crime. I thank the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office for their partnership on this investigation.”

The charges announced today are the result of an investigation by DOI, which received an anonymous tip regarding the possible theft, in partnership with the Manhattan D.A.'s Office.

ALADE-GBAMI has worked for the City of New York since 1996. He was a Congregate Care Specialist with the Administration for Children's Services from August 29, 2016, to February 6, 2022. A Congregate Care Specialist coordinates transportation and chaperones trips for children going to and from school and other appointments.

He began working as a Community Associate for ACS on February 6, 2022, and then as a Child Welfare Specialist for ACS on September 19, 2022.

According to court documents and statements made on the record, from June 2017 to February 2023, ALADE-GBAMI submitted dozens of fraudulent timesheets through the New York City payroll system known as CityTime.

While he traveled abroad and domestically, ALADE-GBAMI submitted timesheets that claimed he had worked regular and overtime hours for the same periods. Records from various airlines and U.S. Customs and Border Protection show that he made the following trips from New York City or New Jersey:

- Lagos, Nigeria, from September 2 to September 17, 2017
- Lome, Togo, from November 24 to December 3, 2017
- Lagos, Nigeria, from April 21 April 28, 2018
- St. Louis, Missouri, from May 29 to June 2, 2018
- St. Louis, Missouri, from September 11 to September 14, 2020
- Dallas, Texas, from March 10 to March 14, 2022
- Dallas, Texas, from September 9 to September 14, 2022
- Dallas, Texas, from February 18 to February 27, 2023

In sum, ALADE-GBAMI was paid approximately \$21,000 by the City while he was traveling outside of New York City.

While he was a Congregate Care Specialist, he used ACS's contracted car service, which is intended to provide transportation for agency staff and children in the agency's care. The car service can only be used by Congregate Care Specialists for approved trips, such as school, court, or medical appointments, while chaperoning children.

Instead, ALADE-GBAMI used the car service to commute to work even though he was not chaperoning a child or working in any capacity for ACS. He falsified his work arrival and departure times, and ACS documentation -- including GPS records from the car service -- showed different arrival times than his timesheets. These discrepancies total more than \$9,000 in stolen City time.

Assistant D.A. Nina A. Vershuta is handling the prosecution of this case under the supervision of Assistant D.A.s Hope Korenstein, Ryan Gee, and Kelly Thomas (Deputy Chiefs of the Financial Frauds Bureau); Kofi Sansculotte (Chief of the Financial Frauds Bureau); and Jodie Kane (Acting Chief of the Investigation Division). Paralegal Krisellie Acevedo, Investigator Noah Dent, and Supervising Financial Investigator Eric Rothmann are assisting with the investigation.

D.A. Bragg thanked New York City Department of Investigation. The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, specifically Confidential Investigator Shameika Nixon, with assistance from Senior Timekeeper Phillippa Nunes, under the supervision of Assistant Inspectors General Octavia Hill and Bradley Howard, Deputy Inspectors General Gladys Cambi and Harlyn Griffenberg, Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel Cort. D.A. Bragg also thanked New York City Administration for Children's Services.

DEFENDANT INFORMATION:

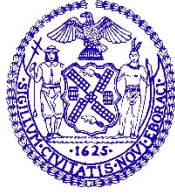
BOLA ALADE-GBAMI
Newark, N.J.

Charges:

- Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony, one count
- Offering a False Instrument for Fling in the First Degree, a class E felony, 8 counts

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[1] The charges contained in the complaint are merely allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. All factual recitations are derived from documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court.



The City of New York
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Release #29-2023
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 28, 2023

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

CITY PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY CARETAKER CHARGED WITH STEALING NEARLY \$6,000 IN CITY WAGES

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest on Thursday, July 27, of a Caretaker with the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") on a charge of stealing time from the City, valued at \$5,873 in wages. DOI's investigation was prompted by NYCHA's report of potential misconduct to DOI. The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg is prosecuting the case.

STEVEN MAESTRE, 32, of the Bronx, N.Y., is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison. He was released on his own recognizance following his arraignment Thursday evening in Manhattan Criminal Court.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "This City employee, as alleged, clocked in but didn't work. He not only failed to serve the NYCHA residents in the development where he was assigned, he stole money and time from the City. I thank the Manhattan District Attorney's Office for their partnership on this investigation and NYCHA for referring this matter to DOI."

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said, "As alleged, this defendant defrauded our City when, instead of doing his job to help clean and maintain this NYCHA development, he simply went home. This conduct not only harms taxpayers, but it undermines the quality of life for public housing residents and the trust they have in city services. I thank DOI for their thorough investigation."

According to the criminal complaint, from November 13, 2022, to June 19, 2023, the defendant was employed by NYCHA as a Caretaker at Morris Houses Development in the Bronx and was scheduled to work a regular 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. shift, Monday through Friday and on alternate weekends, as well as a midnight shift from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on an as-needed basis. NYCHA caretakers are not permitted to leave the development where they are assigned while on duty, except during scheduled breaks, and are not permitted to work from remote locations.

On 19 separate occasions, the defendant was observed leaving his work location at Morris Houses, returning to his Bronx residence, and remaining at his residence during most of his scheduled shift. For example, on February 7, 2023, according to NYCHA's timekeeping records, the defendant swiped in at Morris Houses in the Bronx at 7:52 a.m. and swiped out at 4:25 p.m. DOI observed MAESTRE at his residence at 11:20 a.m. on that date; and reviewed surveillance video that showed MAESTRE entering his residence at approximately 10:42 a.m. and remaining inside until 3:20 p.m. DOI also compared the defendant's timesheets with surveillance video of the defendant's residence during the relevant time period,

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which showed the defendant was not at work, and was at his residence, during his scheduled shifts. In total, as alleged, the defendant was paid approximately \$5,873 in wages for time that he did not work. Paychecks for NYCHA employees are issued from NYCHA's headquarters in Manhattan.

MAESTRE was hired as a City Seasonal Aide for NYCHA's Bronx Floating Staff in June 2010, and was hired as a Caretaker in January 2011. He receives an annual salary of approximately \$46,278 and will be suspended based on the arrest.

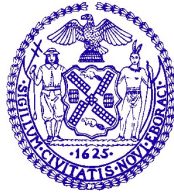
DOI Commissioner Strauber thanked Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg and his staff for their partnership on this investigation, which was handled by Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Minogue of the Financial Frauds Bureau, under the supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief Hope Korenstein. Commissioner Strauber also thanked NYCHA CEO Lisa Bova-Hiatt and Board Chair Jamie Rubin for their cooperation on this investigation, and for NYCHA's referral of the matter to DOI.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Confidential Investigator Karen Smith with DOI's Office of the Inspector General for NYCHA, under the supervision of Assistant Inspectors General Enio Bencosme and Robert Joyce, Deputy Inspector General Gregory Deboer, Inspector General Ralph Iannuzzi, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan, and Deputy Commissioner/ Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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

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Release #17-2023
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023

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

**CITY DEP EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH MAKING THREATENING AND ABUSIVE CALLS
TO CUSTOMERS WHO CALLED WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR WATER BILLS**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest of LAMONT JACKSON, a Clerical Associate in the Customer Services Bureau of the City Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”), on charges of Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree in connection with abusive, profane, and threatening calls made to two DEP customers who called the agency about water usage bills. JACKSON is assigned to work in the DEP Customer Services Bureau at 250 Livingston Street in Brooklyn; his responsibilities included responding to customer inquiries. After speaking with the defendant in his capacity as a customer services representative, two customers received abusive telephone calls from a blocked number. DOI was informed of the incidents by DEP and investigated with the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, which is prosecuting this case.

JACKSON, 50, of the Bronx, N.Y., was arrested Wednesday, April 19, and charged with three counts of Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. During Wednesday’s arrest of JACKSON, eight glassines containing cocaine were found on the defendant and he was also charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, which is a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration.

JACKSON was arraigned today, April 20, in Kings County Criminal Court and released on his own recognizance. A judge granted the prosecution’s request for orders of protection for the two customers who received the threatening calls. JACKSON’s next court date is June 12, 2023.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “As charged, this defendant’s disturbing and harassing behavior is unacceptable under any circumstances, but particularly for a City employee charged with responding to questions from members of the public. Fortunately, this conduct does not reflect the vast majority of City representatives who act with professionalism and provide courteous customer service to the countless New Yorkers that they assist. I thank the City Department of Environmental Protection for reporting this serious matter to DOI and the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office for working jointly with DOI on this investigation.”

Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said, “Customers who contact City agencies deserve to be treated with respect. In this case, however, it is alleged that the defendant left disturbing messages for customers who he was supposed to be helping. I thank our prosecutors and DOI for their work on this case rooting out unwarranted harassment as alleged in this matter.”

According to the criminal complaint, JACKSON, a Clerical Associate in the Customer Services Bureau at DEP, has access to DEP’s records, which contain customers’ personal information, including home addresses and telephone numbers. On July 12, 2022, at about 1:25 p.m., a customer called DEP Customer Services to ask about a water bill. The call was assigned to JACKSON, who directed the customer to submit his inquiry to DEP in writing. The call concluded at about 1:29 p.m. At about 1:30 p.m., the customer received a call from a blocked number and

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did not answer. The caller, believed to be the defendant, left a profanity-filled message threatening to shoot the customer. At about 1:39 p.m., the same customer received a second telephone call from a blocked number. The customer did not answer and the caller, again believed to be the defendant, left a second profanity-filled voicemail that threatened the customer, indicating that the caller knew the customer's address saying, "Watch when I catch you." During the investigation, JACKSON's supervisor listened to the voicemails and identified JACKSON's voice on the recordings.

According to the criminal complaint, on September 14, 2022, a second customer called DEP Customer Services to inquire about a water bill; the call was assigned to JACKSON. Immediately after that call, the customer received a telephone call from a blocked number, which the customer answered. The caller, believed to be the defendant, directed a profanity at the customer and hung up. The investigation determined that the blocked number was placed from a location in the vicinity of Livingston and Schermerhorn streets, between Bond and Hoyt streets, in Brooklyn, near the DEP offices on Livingston Street where JACKSON was working on both July 12 and September 14, 2022. As alleged, these threatening calls caused both customers to be in fear of physical injury.

JACKSON has been employed by DEP since December 2017 and currently receives an hourly salary that totaled approximately \$34,720 in 2022. JACKSON still works in DEP's Customer Services Bureau on Livingston Street, but he is no longer permitted to have telephone contact with customers.

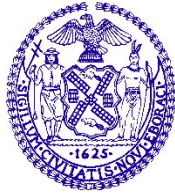
Commissioner Strauber thanked Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez and his staff for their collaboration on the investigation and prosecution of this case, which was handled by Assistant District Attorney Sara Walshe, under the supervision of Deputy Bureau Chief Adam Libove and Chief of the Public Integrity Bureau Laura Neubauer. Commissioner Strauber also thanked DEP Commissioner Rohit Aggarwala and his staff for their cooperation in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Special Investigator Omar Sarach of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for the DEP, Assistant Inspector General Jordan Buff, Deputy Inspector General William Cheung, Deputy Inspector General Michael Antolini, and Inspector General Juve Hippolyte, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort. DOI's NYPD Detective Squad assisted with the investigation.

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

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THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

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ERIC LENKOWITZ
(212) 825-5931

CITY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKER CHARGED WITH EXPOSING HIMSELF TO A PARENT HE WAS INVESTIGATING

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest yesterday, May 31, 2023, of a Child Protective Specialist (“CPS”) for the City Administration for Children’s Services (“ACS”) on charges of exposing himself to a parent he was investigating, during two home visits in 2021. ACS reported the allegations to DOI, which investigated the claims. The Queens District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the case.

HAROLD LATOUR, 59, of Springfield Gardens, N.Y., was charged Wednesday, May 31, 2023, with two counts of Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor, and Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration and a violation by up to 15 days. LATOUR was arraigned Wednesday evening in Queens Criminal Court and released on his own recognizance by Judge Marty J. Lentz.

Commissioner Strauber said, “As charged, this City Child Protective Specialist used his access to vulnerable families as an opportunity to engage in illegal and sexually inappropriate conduct on more than one occasion. His predatory conduct compromised the difficult and complex work of ACS and his CPS colleagues, whose priority is protecting children and families. I thank the Queens District Attorney’s Office for prosecuting this case, and the ACS staff who promptly informed DOI of the allegations.”

Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said, “This defendant was entrusted with securing the safety of children and working with families. Sadly, he violated that trust and is accused of exposing himself not once, but twice during home visits. The defendant now faces very serious charges. I want to thank the Department of Investigation for their diligence examining this case.”

LATOUR’S duties and responsibilities included making home visits in connection with child welfare investigations. According to the criminal complaint, he made such a visit on October 6, 2021, in the Maspeth section of Queens, while investigating allegations against a mother. LATOUR wore basketball shorts to the visit and was not wearing underwear when he sat down on the couch across from the woman, exposing himself to her, the complaint alleges.

LATOUR returned for another home visit on November 17, 2021, even though the mother had requested a virtual meeting. During the visit, according to the complaint, LATOUR again wore basketball shorts, exposing himself to her, this time while seated in her kitchen.

The mother reported both incidents to ACS on November 18, 2021, saying, among other things, that she feared for her safety. ACS notified DOI about the allegations. During DOI’s investigation, LATOUR was

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placed on modified duty and had no further contact with children or their families. LATOUR, an ACS employee since June 2011 with an annual salary of approximately \$64,000, is currently on leave without pay.

Commissioner Strauber thanked Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz and her staff for their collaboration in and prosecution of this investigation, which is being handled by Public Corruption Bureau Deputy Chief Christine Oliveri and Public Corruption Bureau Chief Khadijah Muhammad-Starling. Commissioner Strauber also thanked ACS Commissioner Jess Dannhauser and his staff for their cooperation.

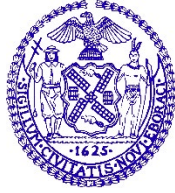
The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, specifically, Assistant Inspector General Alexandra Davie and Assistant Inspector General Octavia Hill, under the supervision of Senior Inspector General Laura Millendorf, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella and First Deputy Commissioner Daniel G. Cort.

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

If you have experienced, or are aware of, similar conduct in connection with a home visit by a CPS worker, you can report the allegations to DOI at (212) 825-5920 or on our website at <https://a032-secure.nyc.gov/p/ofcomplaint.html>.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

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**FORMER CITY PARKS SUPERVISOR CHARGED WITH SEXUALLY ABUSING
SUBORDINATE AT BRONX PARK**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced the arrest, which occurred on Friday, of a former Supervisor at the City Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) on charges of sexual abuse and harassment that are alleged to have occurred inside a maintenance closet at a park located on East 156th 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, 63, of New York, N.Y., who is also known as “Cisco,” is charged 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. Upon conviction, a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year’s incarceration, a class B misdemeanor by up to three months incarceration, and a violation by up to 15 days incarceration. BRACERO was arraigned late Friday evening and released on his own recognizance.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “This Parks Supervisor, as alleged, sexually abused and harassed a subordinate. The charged conduct is unacceptable in any workplace, by any employee, and particularly reprehensible where, as here, it involves a supervisor. I thank the complainant for bravely coming forward to speak with investigators, the Parks Department for reporting the allegations to DOI 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 156th 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 alleged 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 Clark, and the District Attorney’s Public Integrity Bureau, which is handling this case, specifically Assistant District Attorney Kenneth Collado, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Omer Wiczuk. 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 Assistant Inspector General Jordan Buff, Deputy Inspector General William Cheung, Inspector General Juve Hippolyte, and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

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