



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
CLODAGH MCGOWAN
(212) 825-5931

**DOI CLOSES OUT CALENDAR YEAR 2024 WITH INCREASES IN ARRESTS AND COMPLAINTS,
MAJOR PUBLIC CORRUPTION CASES, AND 15 COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC REPORTS**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the agency’s 2024 Calendar Year End (“CY”) statistics today, showing increases in many of its major indicators, including complaints, arrests, and referrals for criminal prosecution. DOI also issued 15 public reports on critical matters impacting New York City government. These statistics reflect increased productivity despite a staffing decrease of approximately 10 percent from the beginning of 2022 to the end of 2024.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, “These figures are a credit to DOI’s talented and experienced staff, who have done extraordinary work in the past year, going above and beyond to fulfill our anti-corruption mission. Their commitment enables DOI to function as the City Charter and Mayoral Executive Orders intended – as a unique and independent agency within City government that conducts thorough and rigorous fact-finding investigations without outside interference. DOI’s comprehensive approach targets corruption, waste, fraud and abuse and yields recommendations intended to strengthen City policies and practices. Our public recommendations and reports provide transparency to New Yorkers about the issues facing their City and DOI’s proposals to address those issues. I thank the State and Federal law enforcement agencies with whom we have worked hand-in-hand and the City agencies that have referred matters of concern to us. Combatting corruption and fraud in New York City is truly a team effort.”

In CY 2024, DOI:

- Issued 15 public reports.
- Made 370 arrests, approximately 17% more than in 2023, when DOI made 315* arrests.
- Received 14,816 complaints, approximately 5% more than the 14,056* received in 2023.
- Referred 498 matters for criminal prosecution, a 25% increase from the 400* referred in CY 2023.*
- Opened 868 investigations, approximately 12% less than the 988* opened in CY 2023.
- Closed 868 investigations, slightly more than the 857* closed the previous year.
- Carried an active caseload of approximately 1,550 cases, about 3% less than in 2023.
- Reached approximately 36,150 City employees through our corruption-prevention module, webinars and in-person lectures, nearly 6,000 fewer employees than in CY 2023.
- Conducted 273 in-person and virtual corruption prevention lectures in 2024, 44% more than the 189* conducted in 2023.

**The CY 2023 number was updated from the previous year’s release.*

Please click on each of the section headlines to see the related press releases to the cases mentioned.

DOI works with state and federal prosecutors as well as other law enforcement to hold accountable those who seek to commit crimes that impact New York City government, including its services, funding, and integrity, or that otherwise diminish the City's ability to fairly and effectively provide for New Yorkers. Below are highlights of DOI's investigations from CY 2024:

[Complex Investigations](#)

In 2024, along with our prosecuting partners, DOI announced a number of significant criminal prosecutions targeting official "pay to play" schemes and other misconduct that undermines public confidence in government, including:

- The arrests of 70 current and former employees of the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") for accepting cash payments from vendors in exchange for awarding NYCHA contracts, driving up the cost of services and depriving NYCHA residents of valuable resources. To date, 64 of the 70 defendants have been convicted, and the cases against six defendants are pending. NYCHA has implemented the 14 recommendations issued to NYCHA as a result of this investigation.
 - The arrests of two former high-ranking Fire Department officials on bribery and related charges for soliciting and accepting tens of thousands of dollars in bribe payments in exchange for providing preferential treatment to certain individuals and companies with matters pending before the Bureau of Fire Prevention, which they managed. Both defendants have pled guilty.
 - The arrest of a City Board of Elections' employee and elected district leader on charges of demanding payments from prospective poll workers whom she was responsible for selecting, and pocketing salaries that were paid to no-show poll workers based on documents that she falsified.
 - The indictment of the Mayor on bribery and campaign finance charges for allegedly obtaining illegal campaign contributions and luxury travel through the City government positions he has held for nearly a decade. The U.S. Department of Justice requested that the charges be dismissed without prejudice, on grounds unrelated to the strength of the case. The matter is pending before U.S. District Judge Dale E. Ho, who has appointed an outside attorney to present independent arguments on the motion to dismiss.
 - The arrest of a former City Hall official on witness tampering and destruction of evidence charges in connection with the investigation of the Mayor's alleged illegal campaign contributions in the above-referenced case.
 - The indictment of the Mayor's former Chief Advisor for using her government position and access to City services to benefit herself and her family.
 - The indictment of a company, including six of its executives and employees, for operating a sham safety training school and issuing safety certificates and cards to approximately 20,000 students. This investigation also resulted in charges against an additional 19 individuals for acting as brokers by connecting individuals seeking safety certification to the sham site safety school. In addition, the sham school was also charged with recklessly endangering the life of a construction worker who died after falling from the 15th floor of a West End Avenue construction site in 2022, by failing to provide him necessary training. Fourteen of the defendants have pled guilty, and an additional defendant was convicted after trial.

[15 Public Reports Issued](#)

Providing transparency with respect to the operations, practices and conduct of City government is a key aspect of DOI's mission. We do so, in part, by issuing public reports. In 2024, DOI published 15 reports that explored issues including the misuse of City-issued parking placards; compliance and governance risks at 51 City-funded nonprofits that operate City homeless shelters; mismanagement at the City Board of Elections ("BOE") related to contracting of for-hire vehicles and, separately, annual and sick leave granted to BOE's former General Counsel; safety, disciplinary, and staffing challenges at the City Administration for Children Services' ("ACS") juvenile detention facilities; the reliability of the field tests used by the City Department of Correction ("DOC") to identify fentanyl and, separately, contraband smuggling in the City's jails; and a review of the New York City Police Department's ("NYPD") Community Response Team ("CRT") that found insufficient public information about the unit and an absence of written policies and procedures; among other topics. These reports shed light on issues of significance to City Government

by describing DOI's factual findings in detail as well as DOI's recommendations for critical policy and procedural change.

Uncovering Wrongdoing by Those Doing Business with the City

DOI investigations uncover schemes to exploit City government and steal or misuse City resources by individuals doing business with the City, including business and property owners and employees of City-funded nonprofits. In 2024, DOI investigations led to numerous arrests, convictions and sentencings involving this type of wrongdoing, including:

- A former fiscal officer for a City-funded nonprofit pled guilty to stealing nearly \$2.3 million from a Brooklyn charity, which she spent on, among other things, remodeling her home, spa treatment, landscaping expenses and luxury goods.
- Indictment of a landlord and corporate entities he controlled for inducing rent-regulated tenants to vacate his properties, by maintaining uninhabitable conditions therein, so that he could sell the vacant properties for profit; and for filing false documents with City agencies to conceal ownership of those buildings and evade responsibility for treatment of his tenants. DOI issued four recommendations to the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") to strengthen the City's response to landlords who persistently neglect their properties.
- Two former employees of a City-funded non-profit and the principal of the vendor they selected were charged in a kickback scheme where the vendor paid \$500,000 to the employees of the nonprofit in exchange for a contract to install security cameras at City homeless shelters.
- A Brooklyn woman was charged with offering a bribe to a City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") Associate Public Health Sanitarian; the Sanitarian reported to DOI that the woman had offered him cash in exchange for a passing grade on DOHMH exam that in fact she had failed. In a separate investigation, a Manhattan deli owner pled guilty to providing \$400 in cash to a DOHMH inspector and proposing that the inspector not appear at an upcoming court proceeding concerning numerous health violations identified at the deli. The DOHMH inspector reported to DOI that she found cash in her bag following her inspection of the deli, prompting this investigation.
- A Far Rockaway, N.Y. man was sentenced to 70 months in prison for fraudulently obtaining nearly \$2 million dollars from rental assistance programs administered by the City Human Resources Administration ("HRA") and HPD.
- A Florida woman was sentenced to 42 months in prison for defrauding at least 120 low-income City residents out of nearly \$50,000 in benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which provides low-income individuals with electronic benefits that can be used like cash to purchase food.
- A New York, N.Y. man was charged with possessing dozens of stolen encrypted two-way radios worth more than \$115,000 from City Department of Sanitation garbage trucks.
- Five individuals and their companies pled guilty to engaging in an array of criminal schemes to exploit their workers and the City's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises program, to fraudulently obtain contracts to build affordable housing in New York City. Two of the defendants were sentenced to incarceration.
- Five defendants, including a NYCHA employee, were variously indicted on conspiracy, criminal sale of a controlled substance and gun sale charges following an 18-month long undercover operation that resulted in the seizure of more than 750 Percocet and ecstasy pills – most laced with either fentanyl or methamphetamine – and a large quantity of cocaine. The narcotics were allegedly sold by the defendants at a Queens NYCHA complex.
- A licensed pedicab driver pled guilty to offering money to an employee of the City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection in exchange for obtaining authentic pedicab registration plates outside of the registration plate lottery.
- The arrest of four employees at a Queens daycare center on charges of submitting fraudulent medical forms to their employer. DOHMH requires these forms to establish that daycare employees have been immunized and medically-cleared for various illnesses. DOHMH referred discrepancies involving these forms to DOI, prompting this investigation
- The owner of a Nassau County construction company was convicted of criminally negligent homicide and other charges after a wall he built collapsed on a five-year-old child, killing her; and was sentenced to six months in jail and five years' probation.

Wrongdoing by City Employees

DOI investigations also uncovered wrongdoing by City employees including bribery, reckless endangerment, overtime fraud, theft of gift cards and workers' compensation fraud, among other offenses. Below are highlights from some of these investigations:

- A City Law Department employee pled guilty to conspiracy to commit bank fraud in connection with his participation in a scheme to steal checks mailed and made out to the Law Department, for approximately \$600,000 in total, and to deposit or attempt to deposit forged, altered, and fraudulently endorsed versions of those checks into bank accounts not associated with the Law Department. A Law Department referral to DOI prompted this investigation.
- A former DOC officer pled guilty to fraudulently obtaining more than \$170,000 in salary and overtime payments.
- The former president of United Probation Officers Association was sentenced to two years' home incarceration and ordered to pay more than \$1.3 million in restitution and forfeiture for stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from the association and taxpayers.
- A former DOC Captain was sentenced to 60 days in jail and five years' probation on charges of stealing \$40,000 from an individual as part of a purported investment ruse.
- DOI issued seven policy and procedure recommendations to the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") after DOI arrested a DOB inspector on bribe receiving and official misconduct charges for allegedly conducting an inspection at a residence that revealed an illegal basement apartment and taking \$140 from the homeowner to close the complaint and falsely state that the inspector could not enter the property. The inspector resigned from DOB and pled guilty to Official Misconduct and was ordered to pay restitution.
- An ACS Executive Director pled guilty in connection with stealing 14 gift cards valued at a total of \$4,900, intended for children who participated in ACS's Close to Home and Leadership Incentive Training programs.
- The employee of a City-contracted juvenile center in Westchester county that provides programs and services for at-risk youth was sentenced to 10-years' probation with sex offender conditions and a permanent order of protection, for engaging in sexual intercourse with a teenage resident at the center.
- A Youth Development Specialist ("YDS") with ACS pled guilty to a charge related to illegally obtaining over \$18,000 in Workers' Compensation benefits; in a separate investigation, an ACS Child Protective Specialist ("CPS") was charged with illegally obtaining more than \$30,000 in Workers' Compensation benefits.
- A former NYCHA Caretaker was charged in connection with paying a victim \$20 to complete maintenance duties at a NYCHA development in the Bronx, and then leaving the victim alone on the side of a Bronx road after the victim's right hand was severed performing the work, as well as making false statements about the incident on official NYCHA records.
- A former Supervisor at the City Parks Department pled guilty to threatening and harassing a subordinate at a park in the Bronx.
- A former ACS CPS employee pled guilty to exposing himself to a parent he was investigating during two home visits.
- A fraud investigator with the City Department of Homeless Services ("DHS") and another individual pled guilty to conspiring to steal the personal identifying information of homeless individuals and to use that information to fraudulently apply for unemployment insurance benefits in the names of the homeless individuals without their knowledge or consent. The former City fraud investigator was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in early 2025.
- An Associate Retirement Benefits Examiner at the New York City Employees' Retirement System ("NYCERS") was charged with allegedly stealing approximately \$624,000 in pension checks from two retired individuals.
- An Emergency Medical Technician ("EMT") pled guilty to a charge 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.
- An ACS employee pled guilty for possessing and submitting 12 forged doctor notes to his employer in an effort to avoid having to appear for work in person.

- A DOC Correction Officer pled guilty to submitting false information about his income to the City Housing Development Corporation (“HDC”) in order to receive publicly funded affordable housing for which he did not qualify. The Correction Officer was terminated from his employment.

Contraband Smuggling in the City’s Jails and Juvenile Detention Centers

- Four juvenile detention center employees pled guilty to accepting bribes in return for smuggling weapons and drugs into a Brooklyn juvenile detention center. A fifth defendant is awaiting trial.
 - The parent of a resident at a Brooklyn Juvenile Center pled guilty to bribing an ACS YDS employee to smuggle scalpels and marijuana into the juvenile facility.
 - Three former correction officers, a former program counselor, a former contractor, and a former inmate were charged with smuggling drugs and cell phones into Rikers Island jail facilities. In conjunction with this investigation, DOI re-issued two recommendations made in prior public reports intended to strengthen procedures that allowed correction officers to bypass drug and weapon detection mechanisms at entry points to DOC jail facilities; and also issued six new recommendations. The five defendants have pled guilty; three have been sentenced to prison; and two are awaiting sentencing.
 - A former DOC Correction Officer was arrested, charged and pled guilty to conspiring with others to smuggle contraband, including cocaine, K2, and food, to inmates housed on Rikers Island in exchange for thousands of dollars in bribe payments.
 - A Correction Officer assigned to the DOC holding facility in the Bronx Hall of Justice was charged with providing an incarcerated individual in the facility with cigarettes and marijuana in exchange for money.
 - A Correction Officer was charged with allegedly accepting \$3,000 in exchange for providing contraband to persons in custody, specifically 200 cigarettes and a cell phone.

Criminal complaints and 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
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