



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #16-2025
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2025**

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**FORMER CHIEF IN FDNY'S BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION SENTENCED TO 20 MONTHS IN PRISON
FOR PROVIDING EXPEDITED PLAN REVIEWS AND PRIORITY INSPECTIONS IN RETURN FOR BRIBES**

Jocelyn E. Strauber, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of BRIAN CORDASCO, a former New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") Chief in the Bureau of Fire Prevention. CORDASCO was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Lewis J. Liman in the Southern District of New York to 20 months in prison followed by two years of supervised release. He was fined \$100,000 and ordered to forfeit \$57,000. CORDASCO, 50, of Staten Island, N.Y. pled guilty to Conspiracy to Solicit and Receive a Bribe in October 2024. As part of the plea agreement, CORDASCO agreed to forfeit \$57,000, an estimate of the bribes he received. This investigation began in 2023, when the FDNY notified DOI of a possible scheme involving improper payments to two high-ranking leaders of the Bureau of Fire Prevention ("BFP"). The case was investigated by DOI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and the Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which is handling the prosecution.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said, "Today's sentence makes clear that City government officials who monetize their offices and require New Yorkers to "pay-to-play," taking money in exchange for expediting government processes, do so at the risk of prison time. By providing preferential treatment to clients of a former FDNY colleague, expediting their plan reviews and inspections in return for over \$50,000 in bribes, the defendant prioritized his personal financial interests over delivering ethical leadership and equitable service to all New Yorkers. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their continuing partnership to combat public corruption. And I thank the FDNY for promptly reporting this matter to DOI."

CORDASCO and co-defendant ANTHONY SACCAVINO, 59, of New York, N.Y. were charged in September 2024, in connection with repeatedly abusing their positions of trust as high-ranking officials in the FDNY from at least in or about 2021 through in or about 2023 by 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 BFP. The BFP oversees and approves the installation of fire safety and suppression systems in commercial and residential buildings in the City, ensuring that these systems comply with fire safety regulations. In many cases, BFP approvals are required before a building can be occupied or opened to the public. The release on the charging of these defendants can be found by [clicking here](#).

SACCAVINO pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to solicit and receive a bribe in January 2025. He is scheduled to be sentenced on May 14, 2025.

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn Strauber thanked Matthew Podolsky, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York for the Office's partnership on this investigation, and the New York Field

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Office of the FBI, for their dedication and partnership on this significant investigation. Commissioner Strauber also thanked FDNY Commissioner Robert S. Tucker and his staff for their cooperation on this investigation.

At DOI, the investigation was conducted by Investigative Attorney Jasmine Harris and Investigative Auditor YingTong Yu, and was supervised by Director of Audits Laila Yu, Deputy Inspector General Arturo Sanchez, Inspector General Audrey Feldman, Deputy Commissioner of Strategic Initiatives Christopher Ryan and Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Dominick Zarrella.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country and New York City's corruption watchdog. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City. DOI's strategy attacks corruption comprehensively through systemic investigations that lead to high-impact arrests, preventive internal controls and operational reforms that improve the way the City runs.

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