



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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COMMISSIONER

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**CONTRACTOR FOREMAN CHARGED WITH BRIBERY
IN DOI UNDERCOVER STING**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of DEVENDRA N. WALCOTT, a foreman for the Brooklyn-based company Pro Weld Fabricators, for paying a bribe to a DOI undercover investigator.

WALCOTT, 42, of Woodhaven, Queens, was arrested yesterday and charged with Bribery in the Third Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

On Thursday, September 25, 2003, WALCOTT offered a DOT Highway and Sewer Inspector a payoff of several hundred dollars to evade a summons that he had been issued for placing a crane without a DOT permit at a construction site located on 118th Street, between Manhattan Avenue and Frederick Douglass Boulevard in Manhattan. The summons carried a penalty of a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000. The inspector told WALCOTT that he would have to speak to another inspector assigned to that area. Instead, the inspector immediately notified DOI. Wearing a concealed recording device, a DOI undercover investigator returned to site and was given a \$400 bribe so the crane could continue to operate illegally and so that the summons would be dismissed. WALCOTT was immediately placed under arrest by NYPD Detectives assigned to the DOI Squad. The crane was removed after WALCOTT's arrest.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This arrest is part of DOI's ongoing effort to deter municipal corruption and should serve as a stern warning to any citizen who might be tempted to bribe a City worker. We applaud the DOT inspector who immediately reported the attempted payoff to DOI."

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and her staff for their assistance and cooperation with the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Ronald P. Calvosa, DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Transportation, and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Mary T. Piechocki, Chief Investigator Edward Zinser and Special Investigator John Regan with the assistance of Special Investigator Byron Biggerstaff and the NYPD/DOI Squad. The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Archana Rao has been assigned to handle the matter.

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

*Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.*