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Release #07-2016
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

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DOI ARRESTS RESTAURANT EMPLOYEE ON CHARGES OF PAYING A BRIBE TO DOI UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR

MARK G. PETERS, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") in partnership with the Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson, announced the arrest of a restaurant manager on bribery and other charges as part of an undercover investigation. According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, an employee identifying himself as the restaurant's manager offered a bribe of $300 in cash to a DOI undercover investigator posing as a Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") inspector if he agreed to ignore multiple health code violations he had observed at the restaurant. The investigation was prompted by a report from a DOHMH inspector who was also offered a bribe by a restaurant employee at that same restaurant just a month earlier and declined the offer.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "This arrest highlights the importance of City workers recognizing wrongdoing, standing up for integrity, and reporting corruption to DOI for investigation. This DOHMH inspector's actions ensured the health and safety of restaurant goers was protected and deserves to be commended."

Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson said, "Honest restaurant inspections are critical to keeping all New Yorkers safe from poorly handled food or vermin infested restaurants. I commend the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and DOI for their work in this case."

WEI DONG, 26, of Brooklyn, NY, was arrested today and charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony; and Giving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

According to DOI's investigation, on September 2, 2015, a DOHMH inspector was conducting a routine inspection at Funny BBQ Bar, located at 818 54th Street in Brooklyn. After pointing out multiple Health Code violations to a restaurant employee the inspector was offered an unknown amount of cash. The inspector refused the offer, issued the appropriate violations, and immediately reported the incident to DOI. After receiving the complaint, a DOI undercover investigator went into the restaurant posing as a DOHMH inspector and observed multiple violations including uncovered garbage cans, mouse droppings and mold in a refrigerator. The undercover investigator told DONG about the Health Code violations, and DONG in return said he could give the investigator "something" if he didn't report the violations, sliding over $300 in cash.

DOI Commissioner Mark Peters thanked the Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson, DOHMH Commissioner Mary Bassett, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DOHMH, including Confidential Investigators Richard Park and Steven Montague, under the supervision of Inspector General Clinton Daggan and

Associate Commissioner Susan Lambiase, Deputy Commissioner/Chief of Investigations Michael Carroll and First Deputy Commissioner Lesley Brovner.

Assistant District Attorney Sara Walshe of the Kings County District Attorney's Office's Public Integrity Bureau is prosecuting this case under the supervision of Michael Spanakos, Bureau Chief and Patricia McNeill, Deputy Chief of Investigations and the overall supervisions of William E. Schaeffer, Chief of the Investigations Bureau.

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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