

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS

DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 1971

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: Joseph Stein, P. E., Commissioner

SUBJECT: Graft, Gratuities, Gifts and Favors

When I was sworn in as Commissioner of Buildings, I promised the Mayor that I would conduct a vigorous fight to restore full public confidence in the Department of Buildings by insuring that corruption, when it exists, is rooted out and dealt with swiftly and decisively.

The first three steps in this effort were the following:

1. A direct telephone line to Deputy Commissioner Frank Padavan where anyone can report acts of bribery and extortion with the assurance that the information received would be treated confidentially. The number to call is 267-0261.
2. Advising the five borough superintendents that they and their supervisors will be held accountable for the actions of their subordinates.
3. Alerting the building industry of their responsibility and requesting their full cooperation to eliminate graft, since illicit payments originate with them.

To assure the success of this effort, a fourth step is essential and it depends entirely upon you, the rank and file. Do not accept any gratuities, gifts or favors in any manner, shape or form. Report, on the direct line provided for such purpose, any information which you may have regarding such offers, or such activities on the part of others. Be assured that this information will be treated confidentially.

I have received from industry through the Mayor's Building and Advisory Council a pledge to "pursue a strict no bribery policy".

It is incumbent upon each and every employee to give me his wholehearted support so that my promise to the Mayor will be fulfilled. It takes only a few unscrupulous employees to defame and discredit the entire Department.

It is to the self-interest of each of us to restore and nourish a reputation for excellence and outstanding work as well as unquestioned integrity, so that we can all proudly proclaim that we are members of the finest building department in the world.

  
Joseph Stein  
Commissioner

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