



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #130-2009
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2009**

**CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS TWO EXPEDITORS CHARGED WITH FILING A FALSE APPLICATION
FOR A DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS WORK PERMIT FOR A BROOKLYN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), announced today the arrests of two expeditors, also called “Filing Representatives,” registered with the City Department of Buildings (“DOB”), on charges of filing a false work permit application with DOB to illegally obtain approval for construction work at a Brooklyn work site. One expeditor is charged with causing the forged signature of a construction superintendent, who had no connection to the project, to be added to the application, and the second defendant is charged with notarizing the superintendent’s supposed signature without having witnessed it. DOI’s investigation began after it was notified about irregularities on a work permit filed with DOB in connection with the site. The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the cases.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “These arrests bring into sharp focus the serious consequences for individuals who fraudulently file false documents with the Buildings Department — arrest and prosecution. Professionals in the industry, especially, should know that this information is vital to the City, which relies on it to make crucial decisions.”

A DOB Filing Representative, or “expeditor,” is registered with DOB to submit documents on behalf of contractors and registered professionals, such as engineers, plumbers and architects.

The following two individuals were arrested today:

THADDEUS STROUD, 40, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who is a Filing Representative, is charged with three counts of Forgery in the Second Degree and one count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, which are class D felonies; one count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony; and one count each of Offering a False Instrument For Filing in the Second Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree and Fraud by Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds, which are class A misdemeanors. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year’s incarceration.

GISELLE TORRES, 24, of Brooklyn, N.Y., who is a Filing Representative and was a Commissioner of Deeds, is charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony; Offering a False Instrument For Filing in the Second Degree, Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, and Fraud by Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds, which are class A misdemeanors.

more

According to the criminal complaints, STROUD filed a "Work Permit Application" form with DOB in May 2008 for construction work at a site in Brooklyn. The Work Permit Application was purportedly signed by a construction superintendent and was notarized by TORRES, in her capacity as Commissioner of Deeds. DOI's investigation found that, in fact, the named construction superintendent had never applied or agreed to be the construction superintendent for the project or given his permission to anyone else to sign his name to the application. In addition, STROUD, before filing the application, had caused the construction superintendent's supposed signature to be added to the application. The investigation found that TORRES was a Commissioner of Deeds from about August 2007 until September 2009 and that a Commissioner of Deeds may not notarize a signature unless the signatory is present.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and their staffs for their assistance on this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOB Michael Carroll and members of his staff, including Investigator Robert Miller, Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy and Chief Investigator James McElligott, under the direction of DOI Assistant Deputy Commissioner John B. Kantor. Additional assistance was provided by John Egnatios-Beene, an attorney with DOB's Legal Division.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph DiBenedetto, Deputy Chief of the Kings County District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, has been assigned to the prosecution of the case.

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

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. 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 press releases can also be found at twitter.com/doinews
Get the worms out of the Big Apple. To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**