



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

MARK G. PETERS
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #30-2014
nyc.gov/html/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014**

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

**REMARKS OF DOI COMMISSIONER MARK G. PETERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON ARRESTS OF
TWO PROFESSIONAL ASBESTOS INVESTIGATORS ON CHARGES OF FILING FALSE ASBESTOS REPORTS**

Thank you District Attorney Donovan.

Construction-related crimes undermine New Yorkers' safety and the integrity of the regulations the City has established to protect its citizens and the hard-working men and women laboring at these sites.

The message to those who seek to corrupt the City's operations: Misrepresent the facts, falsify documents, circumvent the City's regulations, and DOI will fiercely work to ensure the truth is uncovered and the safety of New Yorkers is protected.

To that end, DOI works everyday with the City's construction-related agencies and the five District Attorneys to expose the type of corruption that undermines the City's ability to safeguard the public. We investigate doctored site safety logs, falsified prevailing wage certifications, and, here, fraudulent asbestos reports. This case was the result of a close collaboration with the Staten Island District Attorney and the City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") who truly partnered with us and diligently worked to catch these defendants.

Further, DOI has recommended that DEP, which certifies professional asbestos investigators, continue to thoroughly review the asbestos investigations connected to these defendants. That process is underway and has already uncovered additional improper inspections.

Based on the investigation's findings, DEP has already moved to prohibit the defendants from filing any new jobs with the City. And DOB has already issued a partial stop work order on the Manresa property, as well as other jobs, to allow for the proper abatement of asbestos.

This investigation is a testament to those who stepped forward to let DOI know about concerns regarding construction work at Manresa, including DEP, which alerted DOI to discrepancies it uncovered during a review of asbestos inspections at the site. Specifically, DEP's review found:

- that the defendants took improper samples and
- the presence of asbestos was open and notorious at the site, yet the documents filed by the defendants indicated no asbestos was apparent.

more

DOI worked with the Staten Island District Attorney to gather the facts, including the execution of a search warrant, finding that the true laboratory analysis reports indicated asbestos was found at the relevant sites on Fingerboard Road and Ardmore Avenue, in some cases significant percentages.

I want to thank District Attorney Donovan and his staff for the speedy and thorough work they put into this case.

As the City's watchdog, DOI will continue to work with its partners to expose and stop criminals who manipulate the City's processes and endanger the lives of New Yorkers.

I would also like to recognize DOI Senior Associate Commissioner Michael Carroll, Inspector General Gregory Cho, and Assistant Inspector General Tiffany Dumas who worked tirelessly to uncover the facts that led to these arrests.

Thank you

A criminal complaint is an accusation. 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
See Something Crooked in NYC? Report Corruption at 212-3-NYC-DOI.**