



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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Release #30-2009  
[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009**

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**DOI ARRESTS CO-OWNER OF BRONX PLUMBING COMPANY ON A CHARGE OF  
OFFERING A BRIBE TO A DOI INVESTIGATOR POSING AS A CITY ENVIRONMENTAL EMPLOYEE**  
**--DEP tip led to DOI undercover investigation--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of MIKJOR ("MIKE") SHLLAKU, Co-owner and Vice President of a Bronx plumbing company, on a charge of offering a \$100 bribe to a DOI investigator posing as an employee of the City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). In exchange, SHLLAKU sought addresses where broken water pipes required emergency repairs, which he would have used to solicit business. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

SHLLAKU, 29, was charged Monday, April 13, 2009, with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony; and Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration. SHLLAKU's company, Express Plumbing Sewer and Water Main Heating on Boston Road in the Bronx, does not hold contracts with the City.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Bribing a municipal employee isn't the way to do business in New York City. Individuals who engage in such criminal conduct will be exposed and held accountable. The good news in this case is that DEP promptly reported this activity to DOI allowing our investigators to stop corruption in its tracks."

DOI began its investigation after it was notified by DEP about allegations involving SHLLAKU. According to the criminal complaint, SHLLAKU approached a DEP employee and said he would give the employee between \$300 and \$400 for the addresses of water main breaks and then gave the employee his phone number. DOI conducted a covert operation.

In March 2009, a DOI investigator posing as a DEP employee gave SHLLAKU two addresses that the investigator claimed were from DEP's "three-day notices," which notifies a property owner that they have a service pipe leak that must be repaired within three days. DEP employees are not permitted to give out these addresses.

According to the criminal complaint, in exchange for those addresses, SHLLAKU gave the undercover investigator \$100. DOI's investigation found SHLLAKU intended to solicit private plumbing business with the addresses.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DEP Acting Commissioner Steven W. Lawitts for his and his staff's assistance on the investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DEP Michael Carroll, Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy, Investigator Zeola Fox and Chief Investigator Byron Biggerstaff, under the supervision of Assistant Deputy Commissioner John Kantor.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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