



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release #27-2011
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011

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**DOI STATEMENT ON SENTENCE OF FORMER MASTER ELECTRICIAN TO 51 WEEKENDS IN PRISON
FOR FILING FRAUDULENT LICENSE APPLICATION AND FALSE TAX RETURN**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of JOHN MARI JR., 54, a former Licensed Master Electrician, to 51 weekends in prison. Judge Larry R. Stephen also ordered MARI JR. to pay \$22,180 in back taxes and a \$5,000 fine. The defendant pleaded guilty in March 2011 to submitting a signed electrical license renewal application to the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") falsely indicating he was responsible for work performed under that license, when in fact he sold the license to another individual for a monthly fee of \$2,000 and did not oversee the work. In addition, he pleaded guilty to failing to report the fees he obtained for the license on his personal state income tax returns. The investigation was conducted jointly with the Office of Inspector General for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant chose easy cash over his professional responsibility and integrity. Now, he stands a convicted felon and can look forward to a year's worth of weekends in jail, underscoring that City licenses are not for sale to the highest bidder."

MARI JR., of Staten Island, pleaded guilty to a charge of False Returns or Reports, Personal Income and Earnings Taxes, a class E felony under the state tax law. In addition, he pleaded guilty to a charge of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor, on which he was arrested in December 2010. DOB revoked his Master Electrician License the same month.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., Robert E. Van Etten, Inspector General for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Office, DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Elyse Ruzow of the New York County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of Michael Scotto, Chief of the District Attorney's Rackets Bureau, prosecuted the case.

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.

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