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**DOI INVESTIGATION UNCOVERS CHARGES OF CONCEALING CRIMINAL CONVICTION AND
INFLATING PRIOR EXPERIENCE ON APPLICATIONS TO OBTAIN STATIONARY ENGINEERS' LICENSES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of one individual charged with concealing a criminal conviction and two defendants charged last month with exaggerating their professional experience on applications filed with the City for Stationary Engineers' licenses. A Stationary Engineer's license allows a person to operate high pressure boilers and cooling systems without supervision. The Department of Citywide Administrative Services ("DCAS") administers the licensing application for new applicants and the Department of Buildings ("DOB") subsequently issues licenses to qualified individuals. Separately, DOB oversees the administration and issuance for renewal of these licenses. The case is being prosecuted by the office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Misrepresenting criminal history or professional experience to deceive the City into issuing a license is a fool's game that will only lead to arrest, prosecution, and the City pursuing revocation of the license."

Today, FREDDY DEOLIVEIRA, 52, of Kendall Park., N.J., was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison. According to the criminal complaint and DOI's investigation, DEOLIVEIRA submitted a renewal application in August 2010 to DOB for a Stationary Engineer's license and falsely represented he had no criminal convictions when, in fact, he had been convicted in January 2010 on a federal bid-rigging charge involving his work at a private hospital and was later sentenced to seven months in prison. He no longer works at that private hospital.

Also as a result of this investigation, on July 24, 2012, RAMPHE GOMEZ, 28, of Manhattan, N.Y., and RAMNARINE LALL, 49, of the Bronx, N.Y., were each charged with two counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, class E felonies, based on Stationary Engineer's license applications they submitted to DCAS.

According to the criminal complaints and DOI's investigation, LALL and GOMEZ in July 2009 separately submitted to DCAS applications to become a High Pressure Boiler Operating Engineer and, subsequently in 2010, personnel documents, each falsely indicating they had the qualified professional experience. LALL indicated he worked as a fireman at the private hospital for more than a dozen years, and GOMEZ indicated he worked for the same entity as a fireman for five years, when, in fact, the defendants had significantly less experience as a fireman. Neither of the defendants met the mandatory five-year requirement for professional experience under the direct supervision of a Stationary Engineer.

The cases against LALL and GOMEZ are pending in New York County Court and the defendants are due back in court in October.

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These three cases have also been referred to the Buildings Special Investigations Unit (“BSIU”), a specialized unit which is supervised by DOI and staffed by DOB personnel, to begin license revocation proceedings. BSIU was formed in 2004 to investigate and suspend or revoke the DOB licenses or registrations of individuals and companies who violate the construction codes.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., DCAS Commissioner Edna Wells Handy, DOB Commissioner Robert D. LiMandri and their staffs, and the private hospital and its staff, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney J. Carolina Chávez from the New York County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the DEOLIVEIRA case, and Assistant District Attorney Alyssa Gunther, also from the New York County District Attorney’s Office, is prosecuting the LALL and GOMEZ cases.

The above investigations were conducted by DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for DCAS.

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.

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