



The City of New York
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**PRISON SENTENCE FOR QUEENS MAN WHO SOLD FRAUDULENT
CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING CERTIFICATIONS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on MICHAEL DINARDO receiving a 24-month prison sentence today for issuing fraudulent federally-regulated safety training certifications to construction workers and companies who had not completed the mandated training. This criminal conduct came to light through information received by DOI, which then sent in undercover investigators and worked with the United States Department of Labor Office of Inspector General ("DOL-OIG") and the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") to expose and stop the fraud. In May 2011, DINARDO, 55, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States and impede and obstruct the legitimate functions of OSHA. U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald sentenced DINARDO today in Manhattan federal court. The office of Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's prison term delivers a deliberate message of deterrence: New York City and its law enforcement partners have no tolerance for individuals who undermine construction site safety by trafficking in fraudulent training certification cards. This type of criminal conduct undermines public safety and is a focus for DOI efforts, including a sweep this fall that found and confiscated more than 70 fraudulent scaffold and federal safety cards and resulted in numerous arrests. DOI was pleased to work with our federal law enforcement partners to expose and stop this crime."

Robert L. Panella, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Regional Office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations, said, "Today's sentencing highlights our commitment to bring to justice individuals who jeopardize the safety of workers and the public through the sale of OSHA training certifications. The OIG will continue to work with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the City of New York, and OSHA to investigate this type of crime."

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Preet Bharara, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Robert L. Panella, Special Agent-in-Charge of the New York Regional Office of the DOL-OIG, Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations; Dr. David Michaels, Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance on this investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Howard S. Master and Kan Nawaday.

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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