



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

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

### **DOI STATEMENT ON 45-DAY JAIL SENTENCE OF REPO MAN IN UNLAWFUL EVICTION**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI") issued the following statement on today's 45-day jail sentence of SEAN OVERSTREET, 29, of Brooklyn, in connection with the unlawful eviction of a tenant in Hollis, Queens. Queens County Criminal Court Judge Dorothy Chin Brandt sentenced OVERSTREET who pleaded guilty on December 1, 2010, to the crime of Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. DOI investigated the case, and the office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown prosecuted it.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "An unauthorized person who lawlessly evicts a tenant will face criminal prosecution and very possibly jail time for that dangerous conduct. City marshals carry out court-ordered evictions under strict rules to protect public safety and the rights of the people affected. Rogue operators who shortcut the process will not be tolerated. DOI thanks District Attorney Brown for his office's strong commitment to public safety and assistance in this case."

OVERSTREET, who operated an asset-recovery business known as "Top Notch Services," located at 409 Milford Street, Brooklyn, was arrested by DOI on April 15, 2010, and was charged with impersonating a City marshal and unlawfully entering the tenant's basement apartment in January 2010 and ordering her to leave. At that time, an eviction proceeding was before the New York City Civil Court. OVERSTREET, who is not a City marshal, had no lawful authority to carry out any eviction. DOI's press release on OVERSTREET's arrest may be found at the following link:

[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr29overstreet04\\_15\\_10.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr29overstreet04_15_10.pdf).

A warrant of eviction issued by the New York City Civil Court may lawfully be executed only by a City marshal, in person, or by an authorized employee of the City Sheriff's Office. It is unlawful for anyone who is not a City marshal to pretend to be one or to represent that he or she is authorized to act as a marshal or to perform the duties of a marshal.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, City Marshal Bruce Frankenberg, the New York State Office of Court Administration, and their staffs for their assistance in the case.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Bureau of City Marshals and particularly by Michelle Rodriguez and Pamela Woolbright, and the DOI Investigative Squad.

The Queens County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case. Assistant District Attorney Michelle Cort is assigned, under the supervision of James M. Liander, Chief of the Integrity Bureau.

*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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