



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
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**DOI STATEMENT ON PRISON SENTENCE FOR CON MAN WHO BILKED CITY BUSINESSES IN TWO BOROUGHES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement on the sentencing of HECTOR COLLET to between 2½ and 7 years in prison for purporting he was contracted by the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (“DOHMH”) and duping four small business operators in the Bronx into paying him cash to help them prepare for health inspections. DOHMH has no such contracts, and the credentials COLLET presented were forged. This case was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Caliendo of the office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson.

COLLET’s sentence in the Bronx will run concurrent to the sentence he received last year in Manhattan for similar criminal activity. COLLET was charged in Manhattan with duping three small business operators with a similar scheme. In June 2010, he pleaded guilty in Manhattan Criminal Court to Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, and was later sentenced to between 2 and 6 years in prison. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “Investigators exposed this defendant’s scheme for what it was – a thinly-veiled con that used the City as a pretense to defraud New York City businesses. Today, this defendant was called to account for his crimes. His prison sentence delivers a clear message that tricking the public by pretending to be an arm of the City carries a grave price.”

DOI began its investigation after DOHMH, the New York State Department of State’s Division of Licensing Services, and the New York State Department of Agriculture forwarded complaints about the scam.

On Tuesday, June 22, 2010, COLLET was charged with posing as a City contractor and tricking four Bronx hair and nail salons into paying him fees of \$60 to \$150 each, supposedly to help them prepare for health inspections. The press release on that case can be found at the following link:  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr\\_54collet06\\_22\\_2010.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr_54collet06_22_2010.pdf).

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs, for their cooperation and successful prosecution of the investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Thomas A. Farley; the New York State Department of Agriculture, the New York State Department of State, including its Division of Licensing Services, and AHRC, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

DOI’s Office of Inspector General for DOHMH investigated 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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