



## Department of Investigation

### *Press Releases*

### *A Brooklyn Landlord Arrested In DOI Bribery "Sting"*

#### **Release #005-2000**

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of SHUN CHUK LAM, a Brooklyn building owner, for paying a \$2,000 bribe to a DOI undercover investigator posing as an employee of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). The alleged payoff was in return for the supposed dismissal of a \$14,375 Emergency Repair Program (ERP) bill the LAM had received for scaffolding erected by HPD over the sidewalk adjacent to LAM's property at 902 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "This arrest is part of DOI's ongoing effort to deter municipal corruption and should serve as a stern warning to any citizen who might even be tempted to bribe a City worker. In this case, the HPD employee who initially received the bribe offer immediately reported the attempted payoff to DOI. Her actions are to be applauded. She represents the overwhelming majority of good, honest, and decent City employees."

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, if an HPD inspector concludes that an emergency condition exists in a residential dwelling, the building's owner is notified and instructed to make necessary repairs. If, however, the owner fails to comply, HPD's ERP Unit will itself make the repairs and bill the owner for the work. The owner then has a 30-day period in which to protest the charges.

DOI initiated an investigation this past August when an HPD employee, assigned to its ERP Research and Reconciliation Unit, reported that, while reviewing inquiries from landlords contesting their ERP bills, she was offered a bribe by LAM, who wanted to re-open the protest period or have the entire bill dismissed. Agreeing to cooperate with DOI in an investigation, the HPD employee purportedly "in" on the scheme, met LAM at HPD's lower Manhattan offices. While there, LAM paid the undercover \$2,000 in cash, which was to be delivered to the HPD employee in return for dismissing LAM's \$14,375 ERP bill.

LAM, 36, of Brooklyn N.Y., was charged with Bribery in the Third Degree and Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including Confidential Investigator Maria Horvat.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Patricia Braun is handling the matter under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Leroy Frazer, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Prosecution Bureau.