



## Department of Investigation *Press Releases*

### *Bronx Housing Inspector Arrested In DOI Payoff "Sting"*

#### **Release #032-2000**

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2000 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the arrest of PATRICK HALL, a New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) inspector, for unlawfully accepting a \$200 gratuity from a DOI undercover agent posing as a Bronx apartment building managing agent seeking to remove housing code violations from City records.

The arrest today of HALL is part of an ongoing citywide investigation of housing code fraud, which has to date resulted in the arrest of 11 landlords and 4 inspectors.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, on March 9, 1999, DOI asked HPD to conduct a "dismissal request" inspection of the 73-apartment, 6-story building at 1738 University Avenue in the Bronx. This type of inspection requires a housing inspector to thoroughly inspect a property to ensure that all existing code violations have been corrected, as claimed by the landlord. The building's previous inspection history had included, in addition to numerous minor violations, 2 serious violations, one for an apartment exit door nailed shut and another for an apartment with extensive rodent infestation.

On April 13, 1999, the HPD Bronx Borough Code Enforcement Office randomly assigned HALL to conduct a full inspection of the building. HALL thereafter met with the DOI undercover agent, who was posing as the building's managing agent. HALL allegedly accepted a \$200 payoff, and agreed not to issue new violations and to dismiss old violations inside several apartments.

HALL, 46, of 4355 Wilder Avenue, the Bronx, has been employed as an HPD housing inspector since 1983, and earns \$39,228 a year. He was suspended without pay pending the outcome of a disciplinary hearing. He is charged with Receiving Unlawful Gratuities, a Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to 1 year in jail.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to HPD Commissioner Richard T. Roberts and members of his staff for their cooperation and assistance during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Frank Sinatra, Assistant Inspector General Daniel Alejandro, and Special Investigator John Bavuso.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Daniel Navabpour is handling the matter.

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