



## Department of Investigation

### *Press Release*

Release #039-99

#### **DOI ARRESTS FDNY INSPECTOR FOR SOLICITING BRIBE FROM MANHATTAN BUSINESSMAN**

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of ARKADIY ROZENBLYUM, a New York City Fire Department Inspector, for attempting to extort \$2,000 from a Manhattan business owner during an inspection.

Commissioner Kuriansky said, "The defendant is accused of betraying both his City position and the public's trust by acting as a broker for a Manhattan architectural firm. Over the past year, he regularly used the threat of an inspection summons to steer thousands of dollars in business to the firm -- usually including a 10% commission for himself."

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, on June 7, 1999, ROZENBLYUM, a Fire Prevention Inspector, was conducting an inspection at Tek 7, a telecommunications design company located in the Union Square area. During the inspection, ROZENBLYUM informed the owner that a permit was required for the firm's air-conditioning unit, and that, in order to get the required permit, a drawing of the system had to be filed with the Department of Buildings. ROZENBLYUM then stated that he worked with a Manhattan architectural firm, Ishac Design Architects P.C., that could draw up the required plans for \$2,000. If the owner hired Ishac Design, ROZENBLYUM said, he would refrain from issuing a summons. The owner refused, and ROZENBLYUM issued a summons. Tek 7's owner immediately reported the matter to DOI and agreed to cooperate in the investigation.

In a series of recorded conversations, the owner informed ROZENBLYUM that he had changed his mind and would, in fact, hire Ishac Design to do the drawings. ROZENBLYUM subsequently brought an Ishac Design contract to the owner on July 21, 1999, at which time ROZENBLYUM requested \$1,000 of the fee up front, stating that the other half was to be paid when the job was completed. (ROZENBLYUM also indicated that he usually preferred payment to be made in cash so that his "part" of the fee would not be included in his income for child support purposes.) After paying the initial \$1,000, the owner was told to get the court date for his summons adjourned, which, ROZENBLYUM said, would give him time to do the necessary paperwork so that the summons could ultimately be dismissed. ROZENBLYUM also acknowledged he would never have issued the summons in the first place if the owner had agreed to hire Ishac Design during the original June 7<sup>th</sup> inspection.

ROZENBLYUM, 45, of West 232<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Bronx, has been a civilian member of the Fire Department for the past four years, earning \$33,059 annually. He has been suspended without pay.

ROZENBLYUM was charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, Attempted Grand Larceny in

DOI ARRESTS FDNY INSPECTOR FOR SOLICITING BRIBE FROM MANHATTAN BUSINESSMAN

the Second Degree, and Official Misconduct. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Felicia A. Mennin, DOI's Inspector General for the Fire Department, Deputy Inspector General Elyse N. Post, Chief Investigator Frank X. Smith, and Confidential Investigator Debra Monte.

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Margarita Cimadevilla is handling the matter.