



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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

Release 09-2006  
nyc.gov/doi

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2006**

**CONTACT: EMILY GEST**  
**(212) 825-5931**

**DOI ARRESTS A CORRECTION CAPTAIN FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING INMATES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of Department of Correction (DOC) Captain DOMINICK LABRUZZI for allegedly sexually abusing eight inmates, ranging in age from 16 to 18, that were housed in the Adolescent Reception and Detention Center (ARDC) on Rikers Island.

LABRUZZI, 30, of Rosedale Queens, will be charged with two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and 10 counts of Forcible Touching, both Class A Misdemeanors; 10 counts of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a Class B Misdemeanor, as well as 10 counts of Harassment in the Second Degree, a Violation. If convicted, he faces up to two years in prison. LABRUZZI joined DOC in 2000, was promoted to the position of Captain in November 2005, and was assigned to work at ARDC, the only detention facility on Rikers Island that houses adolescent inmates. LABRUZZI was removed from his assignment at ARDC on December 31, 2005 and was placed on modified duty.

DOI's investigation began after DOC reported allegations of abuse to DOI in late December. LABRUZZI allegedly took the eight inmates on 10 separate occasions to a secluded, locked area within ARDC. Once there, LABRUZZI allegedly inappropriately touched the inmates' genitals through their clothing, forced them to disrobe, asked them to stand or squat before him, and fondled some inmates' genitals or buttocks. LABRUZZI allegedly asked at least two victims about oral sex. The alleged abuses took place from on or about December 18, 2005 to December 25, 2005.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The conduct charged here is reprehensible under any circumstances. As part of his job, this defendant was responsible for the care, custody and control of these young men. However, this defendant is charged with taking the worst kind of advantage of his position as a Captain."

DOI thanked DOC Commissioner Martin Horn for reporting this matter to DOI and thanked the DOC employees who cooperated with this important, sensitive investigation. In particular, DOI commended members of the Correction Captain's Association for their cooperation.

The investigation of LABRUZZI, was conducted by DOI Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso, and members of his staff including, First Deputy Inspector General Meera Joshi Cattafesta, Supervising Investigators Octavia Hill and Lawrence McGugins, Correction Captain Vincent Valerio, and Correction Officer Investigators Albert Jones and Rhonda Young. The case is being prosecuted by the Office of the Bronx District Attorney, Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Milatano, under the direction of Chief of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Bureau, Elisa Koenderman.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.***  
***To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***