



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS FDNY FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR
ON CHARGES OF FALSIFYING INSPECTION REPORTS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest today of a Fire Prevention Inspector employed by the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY") on charges of submitting inspection orders and route sheets falsely reporting that earlier this month he had inspected 19 boilers in Queens when, in fact, he had not. The arrest resulted from a swift investigation that DOI conducted with FDNY's assistance after the FDNY reported the suspected failures to inspect and falsified reports. The office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This inspector fundamentally breached his professional duty to enforce fire safety rules and maintain truthful records and needlessly risked safety, according to the charges. DOI and FDNY quickly investigated the matter and exposed the charged dishonesty. City Inspectors should take heed: Fabricating inspection records is a dangerous and illegal act that will be prosecuted."

ROBERT STEWART, 40, of Queens, is charged with 38 counts each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, class E felonies; and one count of Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, between February 16 and 17, 2010, STEWART submitted route sheets and inspection orders to FDNY falsely reporting that he had inspected 14 boilers at the Le Havre building complex on 162nd Street in Queens and the boilers at five other properties on 150th and 154th Streets. DOI's investigation found that STEWART did not inspect any of those boilers. The investigation found that STEWART sat in his car and filled out fraudulent information on these inspection reports. Fire inspectors are required to complete these records so buildings owners and management companies can be billed for inspections and so valid inspection stickers indicating compliance with the Fire Code can be issued by FDNY.

A Fire Prevention Inspector is a civilian employee of the FDNY who inspects commercial and multi-family dwellings and enforces the fire code. STEWART has been employed with the FDNY since October 1999, is currently assigned to Queens and receives an annual salary of approximately \$45,312. He has been suspended.

The FDNY is re-inspecting the Queens properties that are involved in this matter.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano and his staff, especially FDNY's Bureau of Investigation and Trials, and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and his staff for their assistance in this case.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY and the FDNY's Bureau of Investigation and Trials.

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Assistant District Attorney Daniel O' Leary of the Queens County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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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