



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI ARRESTS STATEN ISLAND BUSINESS OPERATOR CHARGED WITH
FILING FALSE CERTIFICATES OF CORRECTION WITH THE CITY BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Staten Island commercial sign manufacturer on charges of filing documents with the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") that falsely stated he had corrected violations citing him with operating a business out of a Staten Island home. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

DAVID YENEIC, 42, of Staten Island, is charged with two counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Repeatedly filing false documents to evade City regulations is a crime that will result in arrest and prosecution."

This investigation began after DOI was notified by DOB about irregularities in documents submitted by YENEIC.

According to the criminal complaint, in August 2006 YENEIC received a violation for using a residence for commercial purposes. The following month, YENEIC submitted to DOB a signed and notarized Certificate of Correction indicating the violation had been corrected. In June 2008, YENEIC received a second violation, this time for using a home cellar as an office for the company Advertising Edge N.Y. Inc., and the following month he submitted a second Certificate of Correction. In September 2008, DOI investigators observed the same residence being used for commercial purposes. In January 2009, YENEIC admitted in a stipulation with DOB that he was operating a commercial business out of the residence and was required to discontinue that activity by March 21, 2009. In May 2009, DOI conducted a site visit of the location and found a secret room behind a false wall in the basement that housed printing materials, computers, a fax machine and other business-related equipment.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commission Robert LiMandri and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for DOB, including Investigator Robert Miller, Deputy Inspector General Edward Zinser and Assistant Inspector General Byron Biggerstaff, under the direction of Assistant Commissioner Michael Carroll and Associate Commissioner John B. Kantor.

Assistant District Attorney James Roberts from the New York 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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