



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
COMMISSIONER

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**STATEMENT OF DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN ON PRISON SENTENCE  
OF FORMER DIRECTOR OF CITY'S MOVEABLE BRIDGES BUREAU FOR BRIBE RECEIVING**

The one-year prison sentence that BALRAM "BALU" CHANDIRAMANI received today from Judge Eric N. Vitaliano in Brooklyn federal court should crystallize for every City employee the folly of trading on their public positions. Whether the price for selling one's integrity is \$10 or, as in this case, \$400,000, it's a foolish bargain that just might lead to a date with a sentencing judge in a public courtroom and a prison cell.

"BALU" was a savvy engineer, with a six-figure City salary and a clever plan to conceal a six-figure kickback from money he would tack onto the taxpayers' bill for replacing the Third Avenue Bridge. But what he tried to conceal was exposed in an undercover investigation, and after 37 years of City employment, "BALU" is remembered not as a respected professional who helped restore the City's vital infrastructure but as a convicted criminal caught with his hand out.

Since "BALU" and another corrupt City engineer were arrested about a year ago, DOI has worked with City Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan to use this case as an example of what not to do. During that time, our investigators have met with about 1,800 City Department of Transportation employees to discuss the laws and penalties against corruption, and how to stay on the right side of them. They all know about "BALU" and the unwelcome attention his misconduct brought on their hard-working agency and its ongoing efforts to keep our City moving.

DOI is grateful to the state and federal law enforcement agencies who collectively worked on this extensive and fruitful investigation, each bringing something different to the effort. And I want to thank United States Attorney Benton J. Campbell and his staff for their commitment to working with DOI to root out and deter corruption and fraud in the City.

*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.*

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