



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS WOMAN FOR FALSIFYING DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN BUILDING PERMITS

– Permit went to a contractor without insurance and whose construction led to the collapse of a neighboring building –

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today the arrest of BETTY GLOVER for falsifying documents with the Department of Buildings (DOB) so that contractors and property owners could obtain buildings permits. Some of the documents GLOVER allegedly falsified were related to a Brooklyn construction project that caused a 10-foot-thick section of a four-story building to collapse in January 2003.

GLOVER, 47, of Brooklyn, has been charged with five counts each of Forgery in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted, GLOVER faces up to seven years in jail. GLOVER is a former DOB employee who later became an expediter. Her registration as an expediter was revoked by DOB in 2000 in an unrelated matter in which she violated DOB rules and procedures. She is ineligible to file documents with DOB.

DOI investigators discovered the documents GLOVER allegedly falsified while investigating the circumstances surrounding the January 2003 collapse of a section of a 23-unit building at 1549 Prospect Place in Crown Heights. In that accident, the contractor next door, at a lot on 177 and 179 Buffalo Ave., dug too deeply and drained earth from beneath the building at 1549 Prospect Place. No one was injured in the accident. When DOB and DOI investigators contacted the contractor on file with DOB for working on the Buffalo Ave. project, that individual, Sanjeve Bedi claimed he was not the contractor and had no knowledge of the job. Investigators determined that Albert Ramcharan, the owner of the Buffalo Ave. lots, gave \$500 to GLOVER to obtain a work permit so construction could begin. Ramcharan, who found GLOVER through his contractor, said he did not know she was no longer an authorized expediter. GLOVER allegedly used Bedi's information on Ramcharan's project because Ramcharan's contractor did not have insurance. Investigators determined

GLOVER gained access to Bedi's insurance information and DOB tracking number when she obtained work permits for him in July 2002. Bedi has not hired her since then.

After contacting other property owners whose permits listed Bedi as the contractor on projects about which Bedi had no knowledge, investigators determined that GLOVER had used Bedi's name and insurance information to obtain two other work permits for minor construction projects. The other owners told investigators they relied upon expeditors and contractors to obtain their work permits and were unaware that Bedi's insurance information had been used to obtain their work permits. Those contractors told investigators they had hired GLOVER.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant's scheme to help contractors without insurance led to disastrous consequences as we saw with the partial collapse of 1549 Prospect Place. Thankfully, no one was injured in that accident. This case underscores the need for those doing business within the City to do so with integrity."

DOB Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, FAIA, said, "This case should serve as a cautionary tale for anyone who thinks that they can circumvent the system, and as a reminder to contractors to be careful about sharing vital business information. We are very fortunate that no one was injured in the collapse at 1549 Prospect Place. I thank Commissioner Gill Hearn and her staff for their efforts."

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Chief of Staff and Inspector General for DOB, Robert Roach and members of his staff including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro, and Investigators Diane Delaney and John Delvalle. The Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is handling the matter with Assistant District Attorney Michael Spanakos prosecuting.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are 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.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.***