



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

Release # 065-2002

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2002

### **WOMAN TRIES TO BRIBE INSPECTOR** *-- Wants Code Violations Removed From Housing Record --*

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of DEISSY BORAL, for paying a \$250 bribe to an undercover Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Code Enforcement inspector assigned to DOI.

Boral, 55, of Bayville, New York, was charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. She was arrested this morning in Queens. If convicted, she faces up to six years in prison.

DOI began its investigation in February 2002 after a HPD housing inspector claimed Boral had offered the inspector an unknown amount of U.S. currency after the inspector completed a Notice of Violation (NOV) inspection at 111-05 101<sup>st</sup> Avenue, in Queens, a two-story private dwelling with commercial space that she owns. The inspector left the premises and reported the incident to DOI.

On April 30, 2002, DOI sent an undercover HPD inspector (UC), wearing a concealed recording device, to meet with Boral and conduct a NOV inspection. During the course of the inspection, Boral paid the UC \$150 to remove the three class B violations from HPD's records. The violations, first reported to HPD by Boral's tenants, included a leaky roof on the second floor apartment, as well as broken or defective ceramic tiles in the bathroom and ceiling tiles of the second floor apartment. The UC informed Boral the violations still had to be corrected.

On May 24, 2002, the UC returned to the premises. Boral, acknowledging she had already paid the UC \$150 to remove the violations and paid another \$100 bribe to remove the same three pending violations.

"We are going to be doing more and more of these undercover operations," said Gill Hearn. "They're extremely important to rooting out corruption at every level."

The investigation was conducted by Brian D. Foley, DOI's Inspector General for HPD, and members of his staff, including former Special Investigator John Bavuso, and Deputy Inspector General Daniel Alejandro. Assistant District Attorney Yvonne Creque of the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown is prosecuting the case.

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