



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation  
ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN'S STATEMENT ON DOI INVESTIGATION  
THAT LEADS TO FEDERAL JUDGE DISMISSING BOGUS FERRY CLAIM AGAINST THE CITY**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on this week's dismissal of a phony claim by George Adde against the City of New York.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "False claims made by people against the City intending to bilk the City of precious taxpayer funds, is yet another area of corruption that DOI has focused on. When George Adde feigned an injury in an attempt to exploit the tragic Staten Island ferry crash, our investigation exposed what he did and the City's Law Department prevented the loss of tax dollars to a bogus claim. This case sends a message that the City is not a deep pocket that will passively pay out money to settle claims. Instead, DOI will work with other City agencies to aggressively investigate and stop anyone who tries to conjure up phony claims to siphon public funds."

Adde claimed that he received neck and back injuries from the 2003 Staten Island Ferry crash. But a DOI investigation uncovered evidence that Adde was not on the ferry at the time of the accident and also that he had neck and back injuries from multiple prior motor-vehicle accidents. DOI investigators obtained and reviewed medical, payroll and bank records, interviewed multiple witnesses, and worked closely with the City Law Department and the Office of the City Comptroller throughout their defense of the case. As a result, the Law Department refused to settle the claim and took it to trial in the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of New York.

On Monday, November 2, 2009, U.S. District Judge Tucker Melancon, a visiting judge from Louisiana, issued a bench verdict, finding that Adde's testimony was "less than credible" and that Adde failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that he was on the Staten Island ferry. The Court entered a judgment in favor of the City and attributed costs to plaintiffs.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Corporation Counsel Michael A. Cardozo, and his staff, and the Office of the City Comptroller for their joint efforts on this matter.

*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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