



The City of New York
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DOI ARRESTS BRONX PARKING LOT MANAGER ON BRIBERY CHARGE

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a Bronx parking lot manager on charges of bribing a DOI investigator posing as an inspector with the Department of Consumer Affairs ("DCA") to overlook that the lot was over capacity. The office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This arrest drives home the message that bribery is not the way to do business in the City of New York. Individuals who try to evade City rules through illegal conduct only make matters worse."

ERNESTO DIAZ, 45, of Ridgefield Park, N.J., was arrested and charged Wednesday, March 3, 2010, with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Obstructing Governmental Administration in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

According to the criminal complaint, on October 29, 2009, a DOI undercover investigator observed 129 cars parked in a lot at 1185 River Ave. in the Bronx. However, the lot's DCA license only allows for 100 cars and a sign posted at the lot also indicates that maximum capacity is 100 cars. The defendant identified himself as the parking lot manager. When the undercover investigator informed the defendant that the lot was over capacity and in violation of its DCA license, the defendant handed the investigator \$100 in cash and said in substance that he didn't want any problems.

DCA inspectors routinely conduct inspections at a variety of businesses in the City's five boroughs. DCA issues licenses to more than 71,000 businesses in 57 different industries and enforces consumer-protection laws.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DCA Commissioner Jonathan Mintz and Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and members of their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Christina Barba and Senior Investigative Assistant District Attorney Richard Baker of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office are prosecuting the case, under the supervision of Rackets Division Bureau Chief Thomas Leahy.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of Inspector General for DCA, specifically Investigator Marcel Dimbeng, under the supervision of Deputy Inspector General Mary Kozlow and Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green.

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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