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**DOI COMMISISONER ROSE GILL HEARN'S STATEMENT ON INDICTMENT
IN THE 91ST STREET CRANE COLLAPSE**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), gave the following remarks today at the New York County District Attorney's Office at the public announcement of an indictment in the investigation of the East 91st Street crane collapse.

In spring 2008, the people of this city were shaken by the catastrophic collapses of two tower cranes in swift succession. This indictment marks the second remarkable criminal prosecution involving the deaths of innocent victims.

The crane collapse on East 91st Street has been examined in meticulous detail by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, DOI, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration ("OSHA"), and the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") with the assistance of technical experts. The investigation has shown that the horrific event and loss of life was not random or unavoidable but the result of criminal recklessness and negligence, according to the indictment.

DOI investigators were among those who responded to the site immediately after the crash. Having investigated the previous crane collapse on East 51st Street, they knew what records to check, whom to speak to, and the importance of a fast start. They worked around the clock to find and preserve the evidence. The discoveries made focused the investigation on the crane's broken turntable and its beleaguered history. Investigators climbed over rubble and debris to observe the crane's breaking point. We learned that the turntable was removed from a midtown job site a year earlier because of a dangerous crack.

Based on the information gathered that day, the first crucial records were found in the offices of New York Crane. The trail led all the way to Shanghai and back to East 91st Street. In the end, the investigation showed that safety was sacrificed.

This indictment is a powerful law-enforcement response to a short sighted business decision that placed profit before the safety of New Yorkers. When companies gauge the cost of doing things correctly against the monetary benefit of doing them quickly and cheaply, they should know that the law-enforcement professionals assembled here are watching, and the law imposes heavy tolls on those whose conduct puts others at risk.

I want to thank District Attorney Vance for his commitment to a continuing partnership with DOI, particularly in these cases where integrity and public safety are inseparable. I also want to thank our colleagues in OSHA and DOB and the DOI investigators whose tireless work contributed to the successful outcome of this investigation, especially Associate Commissioner John Kantor and Assistant Commissioner Michael Carroll

An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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