



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

Release #17-2009
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**STATEMENT OF DOI COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN ON THE CONVICTIONS
OF BUILDING OWNERS IN THE 2005 DEATHS OF TWO NYC FIREFIGHTERS IN THE BRONX**

A Bronx jury convicted Cesar Rios, 52, and the corporation 234 E. 178 St. LLC today in the deaths of two City firefighters who responded to a 2005 fire in the Bronx.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's convictions demonstrate the serious consequences when individuals defy the law and fail to correct dangerous building conditions. For two innocent firefighters, the consequences were tragic. Now, a measure of justice has been served.

DOI investigators immediately responded to the scene to find and interview witnesses. Our investigators subpoenaed and reviewed records, assisted the Bronx District Attorney's Office in analyzing the application of the Buildings Code to the structure, and used drawings to re-create what the building should have looked like had it been in compliance. Through the combined efforts of law enforcement, the facts have been ascertained and presented in court, and a decision regarding criminal responsibility has been reached."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson for his office's diligence and professionalism in the prosecution.

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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.