



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

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CONTACT: EMILY GEST
(212) 825-5931

DOI ARRESTS RESTAURANT OWNER FOR OFFERING A BRIBE TO CITY INSPECTOR

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the felony arrest of YUSUF BASUSTA for bribing a City plumbing inspector in exchange for not issuing violations for plumbing work at a restaurant owned by the defendant.

BASUSTA, 41, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree and Giving Unlawful Gratuities. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after a plumbing inspector in the Department of Buildings reported that BASUSTA had given him \$400 in exchange for not issuing violations for unlicensed plumbing work, working without a permit, and failing to have the new plumbing tested to ensure proper installation. Following the report, DOI recorded a conversation between the inspector and BASUSTA about the bribe. DOB regulations stipulate that all new plumbing work must be done with a permit and tested. In addition, new plumbing work must be installed by a master plumber. BASUSTA's eatery, Liman Restaurant, is located at 2710 Emmons Ave., Brooklyn.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This case is another example of DOI and DOB's joint effort to prevent the corruption of honest, hard-working City employees: DOB reported the bribe and DOI investigated. In addition, this case should be a reminder to those who are considering bribing City employees – it's a risky proposition and will lead to their arrest."

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Patricia Lancaster, AIA, and members of her staff, in particular the inspector who reported the bribe for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI Confidential Investigator John Del Valle and Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro. The Brooklyn District Attorney's Office will handle the prosecution of the case.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.