



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: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI STATEMENT ON TESTWELL EXECUTIVE'S PRISON SENTENCE
FOR ENTERPRISE CORRUPTION AND RELATED CRIMES**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on today's sentencing of VINCENT BARONE, the Vice President of Testwell Laboratories Inc., a concrete-testing company, to between 5½ to 16 years in prison and a \$15,000 fine. In February 2010 a Manhattan Supreme Court jury found the defendants guilty of Enterprise Corruption, Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree and related charges in connection with falsely filing concrete testing and inspection information with the State and City, including the New York City Department of Buildings ("DOB"). The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. prosecuted the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "As DOI said in its letter to the judge, by flouting City building rules and intentionally filing bogus concrete testing and inspection reports, this defendant ignored his professional responsibility, potentially risked the public's safety, and gravely failed the taxpayers of New York City. The City is left to grapple with the lasting impact. These crimes have undermined the public's confidence in the soundness of concrete and caused the City to spend more than \$1 million to ensure that the corruption did not endanger the public. The prison sentence meted out today is a just punishment for the insidious and deliberate crimes committed. This executive's fate should stand as a stern warning that engaging in fraud against the City carries a high cost. DOI will continue to work with the New York County District Attorney's Office and our State and City partners to expose this type of corruption and ensure that those responsible are brought to justice."

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., the other State and City investigative agencies, and their staffs, for their joint efforts on this investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Diana Florence of the New York County District Attorney's office prosecuted the case under the supervision of Michael Scotto, Chief of the Labor Racketeering Unit.

DOI's Office of Inspector General for DOB investigated the case.

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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