



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 ARRESTS CONTRACTOR ON BRIBERY CHARGE**

***-DOB Inspector notified DOI about initial bribe offer initiating DOI undercover operation-***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of MOHAMMED KALAM, an employee of Brooklyn-based Deluxe Home Improvement Corporation, on charges of paying a \$1,000 bribe to a DOI undercover investigator posing as an Inspector for the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") to avoid violations and a Stop Work Order at a Manhattan job. The office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

KALAM, 51, of Brooklyn, was arrested Thursday, April 30, 2009, and charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony; and Giving Unlawful Gratuities, a Class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison, a class E felony by up to four years in prison and a class A misdemeanor by up to a year's incarceration.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Bribing an inspector is no substitute for safe work practices and, as this arrest shows, it won't be tolerated. I commend the DOB inspector for stepping forward to notify DOI about this kind of criminal conduct and allowing us to stop corruption before it has an opportunity to thrive."

DOI began its investigation this week after a DOB Inspector reported a bribe offer by an employee of Deluxe Home Improvement Corporation to overlook safety violations on the job. The DOB Inspector refused the offer and reported it to DOI. That same day, DOI sent an undercover investigator to the jobsite posing as a DOB Inspector.

According to the criminal complaint, DOI's undercover investigator told KALAM that he would have to cease construction for unsafe work conditions and a Stop Work Order would be issued. KALAM offered \$1,000 to the undercover investigator to refrain from issuing the violations and Stop Work Order.

DOB shut down the jobsite.

This is DOI's seventeenth arrest since January 2008 of individuals, including contractors, business owners and home owners, on charges of paying bribes and giving unlawful gratuities to DOB inspectors or DOI undercover investigators to overlook unsafe conditions. In each case, DOB employees reported to DOI

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that they were offered illegal cash payments to overlook violations they found while inspecting commercial and residential properties throughout the City.

This arrest comes during the City's Fifth Annual Construction Safety Week, an initiative in which DOI joined with DOB and others to raise awareness about safe construction practices.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Robert LiMandri and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOB Michael Carroll and members of his staff.

The case has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney James Roberts of the New York County District Attorney's Office.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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 DOI at (212) 825-5959.**