



The City of New York
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**DOI STATEMENT ON GUILTY PLEA OF FORMER COURT MITIGATION SPECIALIST
TO STEALING CITY FUNDS AND FALSIFYING RECORDS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued a statement today on the guilty plea by former Court Mitigation Specialist RICHARD GOTTFRIED to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. GOTTFRIED entered his guilty plea in the Bronx County Supreme Court before Judge Steven L. Barrett and is scheduled to be sentenced on August 5, 2010. DOI investigated this case jointly with the office of Bronx County District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, and the Bronx County District Attorney's Office prosecuted the case.

GOTTFRIED, 53, was charged with billing the City in 2004 and 2005 for work he did not perform for indigent defendants and with stealing approximately \$61,000 in City funds. GOTTFRIED was indicted in July 2008 following a DOI report exposing allegations of wrongdoing by the defendant.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This defendant held himself out as a professional in the criminal justice system. Instead, he abused his position to collect thousands of taxpayer dollars for work he never did. It's fitting that he now stands convicted of that crime. I thank District Attorney Johnson and his staff for their diligent work on this case and for this successful outcome. DOI will continue to work with District Attorney Johnson to root out public corruption and fraud against the City."

The link to DOI's statement on the indictment can be found at the following link:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr63gottfried_70808.pdf.

DOI's press release and report can be found at the following links:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/pr44acpreport_6112007.pdf
http://www.nyc.gov/html/doi/downloads/pdf/acp_report6112007.pdf.

Assistant District Attorney Miriam Bell-Blair from the Bronx County District Attorney's Office prosecuted 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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