



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI AND FDNY ARREST 104 INDIVIDUALS IN THE PAST WEEK IN JOINT CITYWIDE SWEEP  
ON WARRANTS FOR FAILING TO APPEAR ON OUTSTANDING FIRE CODE VIOLATIONS  
--Approximately \$50,550 in fines for fire code violations have been ordered since July 2007--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and NICHOLAS SCOPPETTA, Commissioner of the New York City Fire Department ("FDNY"), announced today the arrest of 104 business owners, employees and building owners in the past week on warrants charging them with failing to appear before New York City Criminal Courts on outstanding criminal summonses citing fire code violations.

Those arrested face fines for charges of violating the fire code in various ways, including failing to maintain a standpipe or sprinkler system, blocking exits, illegally storing propane and having no fire extinguishers. The violations were issued for commercial buildings and multiple dwellings.

Thus far, fines levied against those arrested range between \$100 and \$2,000. In the past week, 35 individuals have been fined a total of \$13,550 for fire code violations.

The arrests are part of a continuing joint effort by DOI and FDNY Fire Marshals to enforce outstanding arrest warrants against individuals who disregard criminal summonses for fire code violations. These joint Citywide sweeps began in July 2007, after DOI found numerous outstanding arrest warrants charging individuals with failing to appear in court to answer the violations. Since then, approximately 221 individuals have been arrested on such warrants and fines of approximately \$50,550 have been ordered.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This Citywide, joint effort with the FDNY has been a tremendous success and has targeted fire code violations that give rise to potential safety issues. This effort is helping to keep New York safe and reminds individuals of the serious consequence of ignoring the fire code."

Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta said, "Failing to address fire code violations puts New Yorkers at serious risk, and this Citywide sweep is designed to ensure all business and building owners adhere to the law. Public safety is our top priority, and this Department will not tolerate anyone who ignores critical fire safety regulations. I commend the work of our Bureau of Fire Investigation and DOI for their commitment to keeping this City safer than ever."

Those arrested were issued criminal summonses by FDNY Fire Inspectors for fire code violations and, in some cases, for failing to comply with the Fire Commissioner's order to correct them. These individuals allegedly then failed to appear before the court to answer the summonses, which are unclassified misdemeanors. As a result, arrest warrants were issued by a judge.

The latest Citywide sweep began on Monday, June 2, and continued for four days last week, resulting in 30 arrests in the Bronx; 27 arrests in Manhattan; 25 arrests in Queens and 22 arrests in Brooklyn. DOI and the FDNY Fire Marshals arrested these individuals at their homes and businesses and other locations on arrest warrants and brought them to the courts to face fire code violations.

In court, the individuals paid fines, their cases were adjourned for another date, or the charges against them were sealed after payment of fines or were dismissed. (Please see accompanying chart of those arrested whose cases remain public.)

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked FDNY Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta, Chief Fire Marshal Robert Byrnes and the New York City Law Department for their assistance and cooperation in these cases. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the clerks in the New York City Criminal Courts for their assistance.

These Citywide warrant sweeps were conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for FDNY and the Bureau of Fire Investigations of the FDNY. The New York City Law Department is handling the prosecution of these cases in the criminal courts under the supervision of Senior Counsel Sherrill Kurland.

Arrest warrants and 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.**