



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

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

Release #48-2008
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2008

CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**STATEMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION (“DOI”) COMMISSIONER ROSE GILL HEARN
ON PRISON SENTENCE OF FORMER NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANE GORDON**

The case against Diane Gordon has come full circle from a meeting nearly four years ago when she told a builder that she could “deliver” City-owned land to him if he would give her a new house for “little to nothing.” She explained that “one hand washes the other.” Much has changed since then: Four years ago, Gordon was a state legislator with influence to sell. Today, she is a convicted felon, stripped of her elected office and headed to prison for two to six years.

Once, Gordon told the builder, “If you want dreams to come true, you have to keep your mouth shut.” Now she knows what she did not know then: that her own words would seal her fate, because DOI investigators were listening. While we take no pleasure in Gordon’s punishment, her sentencing today is a powerful affirmation of the success of DOI’s investigators and District Attorney Hynes’s prosecutors in finding and following the facts and allowing Gordon’s words to reveal her true intentions.

As Judge McGann noted today, from the evidence, there was “no mistaking” what Gordon wanted.

Any public official contemplating using his or her position as a shortcut to acquiring material wealth, such as a new house, would do well to consider how that foolish scheme worked out for Diane Gordon. It is my hope that people who have heard about this case will remember that there is a City agency to come to when public officials exploit their power to enrich themselves. Exposing and fighting that kind of corruption is why DOI is here.

I thank Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes and his staff, including Assistant District Attorney Michael Spanakos, and the DOI investigators who investigated the case, including Deputy Commissioner Vincent E. Green, Assistant Commissioner Alberta Ancrum, and Assistant Inspector General Joseph H. Medina.

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.