



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 FACTORY OPERATORS FOR ALLEGEDLY OFFERING \$700 TO A BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR TO OVERLOOK UNSAFE BOILER VIOLATIONS AT THEIR BUSINESS IN BROOKLYN
--DOB inspector alerted DOI about the alleged bribe offer--

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrests of HUANG JIAN QIANG and BETTY CHIN in connection with allegedly offering \$700 to a Department of Buildings (DOB) boiler inspector to ignore unsafe boiler violations at the clothing manufacturer. The business, operated by QIANG and CHIN, manufactures clothing at 4117 New Utrecht Ave. in Brooklyn.

QIANG, 48, and CHIN 44, both of Brooklyn, were each arrested for Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony, and Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony. CHIN was also arrested for Giving Unlawful Gratuities, a class A misdemeanor. If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Today's arrests follow one earlier this month of a property owner who allegedly bribed a DOB inspector to overlook a violation that created an unsafe condition. Once again, greedy individuals willing to place their needs above the well-being of others, have been exposed. The buildings inspector is to be commended for reporting this to DOI, which will continue to pursue this type of corruption. As these allegations show, bribing a DOB inspector can allow potentially dangerous situations to continue."

DOI began its investigation shortly after a DOB boiler inspector reported to DOI that he was allegedly offered a bribe to overlook boiler violations at the garment factory on New Utrecht Avenue in Brooklyn. The DOB inspector was conducting an annual high-pressure boiler inspection at the factory. According to DOB regulations, high-pressure boilers must be inspected on an annual basis to ensure proper operation. The inspector observed that the chimney pipe connected to the boiler was corroded and that, as a result, carbon monoxide was leaking, a violation of DOB regulations. The inspector gave an employee at the factory notice of violation and the employee handed the inspector a piece of folded blue paper containing \$200, indicating that it was from the "boss." The inspector immediately reported the situation to DOI.

As part of a DOI covert operation, the inspector returned to the clothing factory to meet QIANG and CHIN. The inspector informed QIANG and CHIN that the boiler was in violation of DOB

regulations and that its use would be hazardous because it would leak carbon monoxide and place workers at risk. The inspector directed QIANG and CHIN to stop using the boiler until repairs could be made. QIANG and CHIN gave \$500 in cash to the inspector, asking the inspector not to file the violation for the boiler. Subsequently, DOI has confirmed that the boiler has been repaired.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked Department of Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster and her staff for their assistance in this investigation.

This case was investigated by DOI's Inspector General for the Department of Buildings John Woods and members of his staff, including First Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro, Confidential Investigators Christopher Santariello and Lewis Santoni and detectives from the New York Police Department assigned to DOI.

The Office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case, which is assigned to Assistant District Attorney Joseph DiBenedetto.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. 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.**