



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS FOUR RESTAURANT OPERATORS IN BRIBERY "STING"**  
**--Undercover Investigators Offered \$1,600 to Ignore Health Code Violations in Brooklyn and Queens--**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the culmination of an investigation that resulted in the arrests of four restaurant operators who allegedly paid bribes, ranging from \$300 to \$500, to DOI undercover investigators posing as City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) inspectors. The alleged payoffs, which occurred over the past week, were offered to avoid a variety of City Health Code violations, such as the presence of live roaches and mouse droppings and the absence of a certified individual who must be present while food is being prepared, among others.

DOHMH inspectors reported to DOI that the owners or employees of four restaurants in Brooklyn and Queens offered them bribes. As a result, DOI initiated an undercover "sting" investigation in which investigators posing as City health inspectors visited the establishments.

Over the past week, four restaurant operators were arrested, with the fourth arrest occurring today. Those arrested are: YANG YIN HU-TAN, 42, of Brooklyn; SHAMEEM CHOWDHURY, 49, of Brooklyn; QIXING CHEN, 26, of Brooklyn and RI YING ZHENG, 27, of Queens. Each was arrested on Bribery in the Third Degree, a class D felony. In addition, HU-TAN was also charged with Rewarding Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony.

If convicted, each faces up to seven years in prison.

With these four arrests, this fiscal year DOI surpassed the 345 arrests the agency conducted in 2005-2006.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The diligent and immediate reporting by Health Inspectors that they had been offered payoffs prompted DOI's investigation. These inspectors should be commended for their integrity. DOI has arrested more than a dozen restaurant operators since 2003 on bribery charges and will continue to pursue those who engage in this type of corruption."

The following are details of the DOI investigation and arrests:

1. On June 22, 2007, an undercover DOI investigator, posing as a DOHMH inspector, went to the H and V Restaurant, located at 5816 8th Ave. in Brooklyn, and met YANG YIN

HU-TAN, who identified herself as the owner of the restaurant. After the undercover investigator pointed out several violations, including the presence of flies in the kitchen area, mouse droppings in the rear of the kitchen near the stove, and raw meat in the sink next to pots and pans, HU-TAN allegedly offered and paid the undercover \$500 to overlook the violations. HU-TAN was arrested on June 22.

2. On June 23, 2007, an undercover DOI investigator, posing as a DOHMH inspector, went to the Hallal Restaurant, located at 1168 Fulton St. in Brooklyn and met SHAMEEM CHOWDHURY, who identified himself as the owner of the restaurant. After the undercover investigator pointed out several violations, including uncovered meat in the refrigerator, CHOWDHURY allegedly offered and paid the undercover \$500 to overlook the violations. CHOWDHURY was arrested on June 27.
3. On June 25, 2007, an undercover DOI investigator, posing as a DOHMH inspector, went to the Wahlong Kitchen Restaurant, located at 648 Rockaway Ave. in Brooklyn and met employee QIXING CHEN. During the inspection, the undercover investigator pointed out several violations, including several dozen live roaches and flies. When the undercover investigator pointed out numerous mouse droppings, CHEN insisted the substance was medicine, not mouse droppings and, later, allegedly offered and paid the undercover investigator \$300 to overlook the violations. CHEN was arrested on June 27.
4. On June 28, 2007, an undercover DOI investigator, posing as a DOHMH inspector, went to the Yummy Restaurant, located at 176-59 Union Turnpike in Fresh Meadows, Queens. The undercover investigator determined that RI YING ZHENG, the Food Protection Certificate holder, was not present. DOHMH regulations mandate the presence of a DOHMH-authorized Food Protection Certificate holder whenever food is being prepared. Subsequently, ZHENG appeared and allegedly offered and paid the undercover investigator \$300 to overlook her absence. ZHENG was arrested today.

HU-TAN, CHOWDHURY, and CHEN are each being prosecuted by the Office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes' Rackets Bureau. ZHENG is being prosecuted by the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown's Public Integrity Bureau.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn commended the DOHMH inspectors for their prompt reports of the illegal bribe offers and thanked DOHMH Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden and members of his staff for their assistance in this investigation

The investigations were conducted under the supervision of Christopher Staackmann, DOI's Inspector General for DOHMH, and by members of his staff.

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.**