



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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Release # 55-2006
nyc.gov/html/doi

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2006

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DOI ARRESTS FOUR RESTAURANT OPERATORS IN BRIBERY "STING"
-- Undercover agents were paid \$670 to ignore health code violations in Brooklyn --

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrests of four restaurant operators in Brooklyn for paying bribes, ranging from \$100 to \$200, to DOI undercover investigators who posed as City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) inspectors. According to the criminal complaints, the payoffs were given to avoid summonses for Health Code violations.

All four defendants have been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a Class D felony. If convicted, each defendant faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This case should be a reminder to all food establishments that there are consequences to be paid by those who engage in corrupt conduct and attempt to evade their responsibility to operate in a safe and sanitary manner."

These arrests reflect an ongoing effort by DOI to arrest restaurant operators who try to circumvent the City's Health Code by bribing or attempting to bribe DOHMH inspectors to ignore violations. DOI's investigation stemmed from DOHMH inspectors who reported that the owners of these restaurants allegedly offered them bribes. As a result, between May 24 and June 13, 2006, DOI sent undercover investigators, posing as Health inspectors, to the four establishments.

On May 24, 2006, a DOI undercover investigator went to the China King Restaurant, at 2683 Pitkin Avenue in Brooklyn, and met JIAN FANG REN, who said she was the owner. After the undercover pointed out several Health Code violations, REN offered and paid the undercover \$200 to overlook the violations.

While conducting an inspection on May 24, 2006, of the New Garden Restaurant, at 9602 Church Avenue in Brooklyn, the DOI undercover met SUM TUNG CHENG, who said he was the owner. After the undercover pointed out several violations, CHENG offered and paid the undercover \$200 to overlook the violations.

On June 1, 2006, an undercover investigator visiting New Fu Lai Restaurant, located at 2249 Church Avenue in Brooklyn, met with KWONG CHAN HONG, who identified himself as the owner. CHAN offered and paid the undercover \$170 to overlook several violations shown to the owner.

During an inspection of Broadway Pizza & Fried Chicken at 1474 Broadway in Brooklyn, on June 13, 2006, a DOI undercover investigator met MUSTAFA CHOUDHARI, who said he was the owner. After the undercover pointed out several violations, CHOUDHARI offered the undercover a meal and gave him \$100 to overlook the violations.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn commended the DOHMH inspectors for immediately reporting the illegal bribe offers to DOI and thanked DOHMH Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden and his staff for their assistance in these investigations.

The investigations were conducted under the supervision of DOI's Acting Inspector General for DOHMH, Christopher Staackmann, and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander, Special Investigators Byron Biggerstaff and John Eleftheriades, and Confidential Investigator Daniele Caruso.

The defendants are being prosecuted by Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, with Assistant District Attorney Ryan Wallace in the Rackets Bureau assigned.

Defendants:

1. JIAN FANG REN, 34, of Brooklyn
2. SUM TUNG CHENG, 39, of Brooklyn
3. KWONG CHAN HONG, 34, of Brooklyn
4. MUSTAFA CHOUDHARI, 44, of Brooklyn

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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