



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS CITY RESTAURANT INSPECTOR IN BRIBERY "STING"**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest of ETIBAR ALIEV, a New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene ("DOHMH") Public Health Sanitarian ("PHS"), on charges he solicited a \$500 bribe and a bottle of liquor after saying that he could have closed the restaurant.

ALIEV, 55, of Brooklyn, was arrested Thursday, June 26, 2008, and is expected to be arraigned today in Brooklyn Criminal Court. ALIEV has been charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony; Receiving Reward for Official Misconduct in the Second Degree, a class E felony. In addition, he was charged with the following class A misdemeanors: Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree, Official Misconduct and Receiving Unlawful Gratuities. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

ALIEV began employment with DOHMH in July 2006 and was receiving an annual salary of \$42,260. DOHMH terminated his employment today.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "This inspector brazenly abused his authority and leverage to exact a \$500 bribe and a bottle of liquor from a restaurant operator, according to the charges. Because DOI investigated the matter immediately, the inspector has already been arrested and, if convicted, may face a prison term. Corruption of this kind is unacceptable and will be dealt with accordingly. I thank Dr. Frieden and his staff for their strong support of DOI's anti-corruption efforts."

Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, DOHMH Commissioner, said: "I thank the Department of Investigation, the restaurant owners and Health Department employees whose vigilance brought this situation to light. I am deeply disappointed by the behavior of this individual. As public servants, we have an obligation to the community we serve, and this Department has zero tolerance for any behavior that violates the public's trust. The employee is being terminated, and we will continue to cooperate with the authorities to take all necessary measures."

DOI began its investigation Thursday, June 26, 2008, after it received a tip that a DOHMH inspector, later identified as ALIEV, had tried to shake down a Brooklyn restaurant owner for money.

According to the criminal complaint, on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, ALIEV went to a restaurant at 4307 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Brooklyn to conduct an inspection. ALIEV said he could close down the restaurant but instead

would help by only citing it for 20 violation points and then asked what could be done for him in return. ALIEV later called the restaurant to continue the discussion and arrange a meeting.

On Thursday, June 26, 2008, ALIEV returned to the restaurant and DOI investigators monitored his actions. According to the criminal complaint, he said he could not reduce the number of violation points without making DOHMH suspicious, but that he could help with this inspection and future inspections. While inside the restaurant he took a \$500 cash payoff. Before leaving the restaurant, ALIEV also asked for and received a free bottle of liquor. He said the restaurant could call him at anytime. When ALIEV left the restaurant, DOI investigators arrested ALIEV and immediately recovered the \$500 in cash and bottle of liquor from him.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOHMH, Christopher Staackmann, and other DOI investigators, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander, and Special Investigators John Eleftheriades, Danielle Caruso, Christopher Santariello, and Edward Trentacosta.

The defendant will be prosecuted by the office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes.

Criminal complaints are merely 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.*

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To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**