



The City of New York
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SPOTLIGHT ON THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR THE NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT (“FDNY”)

DOI’s Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Fire Department has investigated an array of cases and issued a number of public reports, including its findings on the assault of a firefighter at a Staten Island firehouse, sexual misconduct at a Bronx firehouse, the FDNY’s policies governing the agency’s light-duty practices, the use of bogus degrees by employees of the FDNY and how a private contractor inappropriately paid for several thousands dollars of travel and other expenses for a former FDNY Assistant Commissioner. Based on DOI’s findings, in June 2007, the City Conflicts of Interest Board [“COIB”] later fined the former Assistant Commissioner \$6,500. DOI’s reports included recommendations to the FDNY to improve its policies and prevent the same problems from recurring.

In addition to public reports, the unit’s arrests cover a variety of investigations, including FDNY employees falsely filing documents with the FDNY to obtain leave pay they were not entitled to receive; firefighters setting fire to a Manhattan firehouse; an FDNY employee bringing a loaded, unlicensed firearm to work; and false 911 calls made by a firefighter, to name a few. Following are the arrest numbers by calendar year for the unit:

- 2007 – 22 arrests
- 2008 – 25 arrests
- 2009 – 12 arrests (as of June 29, 2009)

Since 2007, the unit has investigated approximately 50 cases it has referred either to COIB for possible violations of Chapter 68 of the City Charter or to the FDNY for disciplinary action. Notable findings that resulted in fines include a FDNY officer using subordinates to do personal work for the officer on City time; an EMS officer using a City-issued car for personal trips during non-work hours, and 14 FDNY members who submitted bogus degrees to obtain promotions or appointments.

In addition, in July 2007, DOI began working with the FDNY Marshals to enforce outstanding arrest warrants against individuals who disregarded criminal summonses for fire code violations, a significant safety concern. The initiative began after DOI found numerous outstanding arrest warrants at the FDNY charging individuals with failing to appear in court to answer the violations. Since July 2007, DOI has made more than 430 arrests as part of this joint effort and more than \$120,000 in fines have been ordered to be paid to the City.

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.