



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS MAN FOR TRYING TO BRIBE CITY BUILDINGS INSPECTOR

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today the arrest of GAVRIEL YADGROV on bribery charges after he gave \$1,000 to a New York City buildings inspector so he would ignore violations in the City's building code concerning an illegally constructed basement apartment.

YADGROV, 27, of Fresh Meadow, Queens, was arrested October 15, 2004, and charged with Bribery in the Third Degree. If convicted, YADGROV faces up to seven years in jail.

DOI's investigation began after an inspector for the New York City Department of Buildings reported that YADGROV had offered him \$1,000 in exchange for not issuing violations for the illegal occupancy of a basement apartment in a two-family home YADGROV owns at 101-04 Martense Ave, in Corona. The inspector, who visited the property at the suggestion of the New York City Fire Department due to complaints about gas, would have issued violations to YADGROV for altering the legal certificate of occupancy in the basement and for doing work without a permit. After YADGROV offered the bribe, DOB sent a different inspector to the property and issued a violation for illegal occupancy and work without a permit of the basement apartment, which resulted in an order to vacate the premises and an order for immediately returning the basement to its legal condition.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "I thank the DOB inspector who reported this illegal conduct. This goes to show that by and large, City employees are honest, hard-working and want to protect New Yorkers from unsafe building conditions."

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn also thanked DOB Commissioner Patricia J. Lancaster, AIA, and her staff for their assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This case was investigated by DOI's Inspector General for DOB Robert Roach and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Joseph Ferraro and Confidential Investigator Eugenia Wells. This case will be prosecuted by the Office of Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

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.

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