



The City of New York
Department of Investigation
ROSE GILL HEARN
COMMISSIONER

80 MAIDEN LANE
NEW YORK, NY 10038
212-825-5900

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CONTACT: DIANE STRUZZI
(212) 825-5931

**DOI ARRESTS CITY SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKER ON A CHARGE OF FILING FALSE INFORMATION
IN FAILED ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN LICENSE FROM CITY BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced the arrest today of a Sewage Treatment Worker with the City Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") on a charge of submitting a forged letter purportedly from his DEP supervisor to the City Department of Buildings ("DOB") in an unsuccessful attempt to obtain a Site Safety Manager's license. The letter falsely claimed the defendant had supervisory construction experience at DEP, according to the criminal complaint. DOI opened an investigation after the Buildings Special Investigations Unit ("BSIU"), a specialized unit that is supervised by DOI and includes staff from DOB, questioned the claims in the defendant's letter. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

ALVARO MORA, 44, of Woodside, N.Y., has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony. Upon conviction, a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison and a class E felony by up to four years in prison.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Fabricating experience is a foolish way to seek a City-issued license, especially where the fraud, if successful, would have compromised the safety of New Yorkers. This arrest is a stern reminder that individuals who flout the rules and willfully disregard construction safety will be held accountable."

MORA has been employed at DEP as a Sewage Treatment Worker since November 2003; is currently assigned to work at the Newtown Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant in Brooklyn; he is paid a daily per diem rate of \$279.76 and in 2009 he received wages of approximately \$72,737. A Sewage Treatment Worker's job includes operating, maintaining, and repairing machinery at a variety of DEP facilities.

In March 2009, DOB denied MORA's application for a Site Safety Manager's license because he did not submit the required letters from his supervisors describing his construction experience. In May 2009, MORA resubmitted his application and asked for reconsideration for the license.

According to the criminal complaint, as part of that application, the defendant submitted a letter on DEP letterhead, purportedly signed by his supervisor, claiming that MORA performed and supervised construction work at DEP. DOI's investigation found that the supervisor never wrote the letter, the supervisor's name was spelled incorrectly several times in the letter, the signature in the letter was not the supervisor's, and the defendant never performed or supervised construction work for DEP, according to the complaint.

As a result of this investigation, DOB denied MORA's application for a Site Safety Manager's license.

BSIU was formed in 2004 to investigate and suspend or revoke the DOB licenses or registrations of individuals and companies who violate the construction codes.

The investigation was conducted by members of DOI's Offices of Inspectors General for DEP and DOB and by members of BSIU.

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Assistant District Attorney Lauren Littman of the New York County District Attorney's Office, under the direction of Thomas Wornom, Chief of the District Attorney's Special Prosecutions Bureau, has been assigned to the prosecution of the case.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., DEP Commissioner Caswell F. Holloway, and DOB Commissioner Robert LiMandri, and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is 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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