



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI STATEMENT ON THE DISCIPLINE OF 14 FDNY MEMBERS FOR SUBMITTING BOGUS DEGREES IN AN ATTEMPT TO EARN PROMOTIONS OR APPOINTMENTS**

About \$135,000 in disciplinary fines were meted out by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) to 14 of its members that were based on findings from a DOI Report issued in January 2007, which found that these members had submitted bogus educational degrees in an attempt to earn promotions or appointments. The phony diplomas were purchased on the internet from an entity that called itself "St. Regis University," or other so-called institutions. The DOI Report found these individuals submitted these "diplomas" to the FDNY in an attempt to meet educational requirements to earn promotions to the ranks of Deputy Chief, Battalion Chief and Captain, and, in one case, to be appointed as a probationary firefighter. Three officers were promoted based on the phony degrees to the ranks of Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief. As a result of the Report, the Fire Department improved its policy on how educational degrees are verified. To that end, and to the FDNY's credit, they have since detected several phony online diplomas submitted by job candidates.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The significant fines levied against these 14 Fire Department members underscores the findings of DOI's Report on this matter. These individuals chose not to earn their college degrees honestly, undercutting the diligence and hard work of those members who legitimately satisfied educational requirements for promotions and appointments. To its credit, the Fire Department has responded by tightening the procedures by which it verifies degrees. DOI will continue to remain vigilant on this issue."

Copies of the DOI Report and exhibits can be found on DOI's website at the following link:  
<http://doiweb/nycgov/html/press/january2007.html>.

*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.**