



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

**PHILADELPHIA INSPECTOR GENERAL VISITS NEW YORK CITY'S CORRUPTION WATCHDOG
TO LEARN ABOUT DOI'S OPERATION AND INVESTIGATORY TECHNIQUES**

***--In August, representatives from 16 countries visited DOI to learn about the agency's
anti-corruption programs as part of a continuing global effort to connect with
national and international corruption-fighting agencies--***

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI), announced her meeting with Philadelphia Inspector General R. SETH WILLIAMS today at DOI's offices in Lower Manhattan. The day-long visit gave an in-depth view of DOI and specifics on the agency's statutory authority and investigative powers that imbue DOI with its independence and effectiveness. The visit caps a year of visitors from other cities and countries who have heard of DOI cases and efforts at combating corruption and waste in government. A 16-country delegation visited DOI in August 2007 to see the agency's operation firsthand.

Today, WILLIAMS and Philadelphia Assistant Inspector General RICHARD J. WALL spent the day learning from DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn and her executive staff, associate commissioners and Inspectors General. The presentations focused on DOI's operations, the laws that give the agency its authority and an overview of the many successful and complicated corruption-related investigations DOI has undertaken. The Philadelphia Inspector General also learned about the significant Reports DOI has issued, the agency's focus on uncovering fraud and waste within non-profits who receive City funding, the corruption-prevention outreach lectures and an array of other investigatory practices.

Friday's visit follows an event in August in which DOI hosted representatives from countries participating in the International Visitor Leadership Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. DOI executives met with government officials and business leaders from 16 countries, including Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, Ghana, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Syria and Tanzania, and gave the visitors insight into DOI's work and mission. Since 2002 more than 60 countries have visited DOI from this program seeking guidance on best practices for fighting corruption.

DOI Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "Forging relationships with other inspector general programs in the United States and corruption-fighting agencies in other countries only strengthens DOI's mission. Corruption has no borders and we are pleased to have so many allies in our effort to root out fraud and malfeasance. We are proud that DOI is held as a national and international model for corruption-fighting techniques."

Internationally, executives from the Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCB) in the Republic of Tanzania came to DOI in January 2007 to continue a long-standing relationship between the two agencies. DOI has worked with the PCB to provide investigative training to more than 1,000 investigators.

In addition, Commissioner Gill Hearn brought DOI's efforts to a global audience at the World Cities Conference on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity in Amsterdam, where DOI's methods and techniques will be part of a book on global corruption practices published from the international conference.

Domestically, DOI has also hosted Chicago Inspector General David Hoffman and members of his staff for a two-day workshop last year, teaching them about DOI's operations. In April 2007, Commissioner Gill Hearn traveled to meet with Hoffman, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley and the Mayor's commissioners to discuss DOI's anti-corruption program and present an overview of the agency's operations.

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.**