



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS CONTRACTOR FOR PAYING BRIBE TO UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATOR

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today the arrest of RODOLFO HERNANDEZ for a scheme in which he attempted to bribe a City sidewalk inspector in order to avoid receiving a summons for not having the requisite permits while conducting sidewalk construction in Manhattan.

HERNANDEZ, 38, of Mount Vernon, New York has been charged with Bribery in the Third Degree, a Class D Felony. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in jail.

HERNANDEZ, the owner of R.H. Construction, a private contracting company in Mount Vernon, offered a \$100 bribe to a New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) highway and sewer inspector in order to avoid receiving a summons for conducting sidewalk construction work at 1634 Lexington Avenue in East Harlem without a required DOT permit. The DOT inspector refused the bribe and issued HERNANDEZ what is known as an Environmental Control Board (ECB) summons. The inspector immediately reported the bribe offer to DOI and DOI sent an undercover investigator to meet with HERNANDEZ. HERNANDEZ allegedly paid the DOI undercover \$100 in order to void the ECB summons that the initial inspector had issued.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "New Yorkers should learn from the experiences of this defendant: Circumventing City regulations will not work. Not only will City employees report your attempts to bribe them but DOI will make sure that such schemes are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I commend this honest City employee who reported this bribery attempt."

Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall and her staff for their assistance in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOT Mary T. Piechocki and members of her staff, including Assistant Inspector General Michael Healy, Chief Investigator Edward Zinser and Special Investigator Omar Sarach.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will handle this matter. HERNANDEZ will be prosecuted by Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Mauricio Kasianko.

Criminal complaints are accusations. 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.