



The City of New York
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**DOI STATEMENT ON GUILTY PLEAS TO FEDERAL BRIBERY CHARGES BY
FORMER INSPECTOR WITH THE CITY DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS AND
RETIRED BROOKLYN PLUMBING COMPANY MANAGER**

-Investigation by the DOI and FBI finds retired Brooklyn plumbing company manager paid up to \$10,000 to former DOB inspector in exchange for overlooking violations, not performing inspections-

DEAN A. MASSARI, 40, a former Inspector for the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB), and JOSEPH DEGRATTO, 63, a retired subsurface plumbing company manager, each entered guilty pleas today before U.S. Magistrate Judge James Orenstein in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn. Each pleaded guilty to Theft or Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds. Each faces up to 10 years in federal prison, and up to a \$250,000 fine, when they are sentenced on January 11, 2008.

MASSARI and DEGRATTO were arrested in May 2007 on allegations that DEGRATTO paid MASSARI money several times per month between January 2000 and June 2003. The United States Attorney's Office of the Eastern District of New York, under the supervision of Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Brownell, is prosecuting the case.

According to the indictment, DEGRATTO, a supervisor at Pullini Water Services Inc. in Brooklyn, paid bribes to MASSARI, who was a DOB Inspector, in exchange for MASSARI overlooking codes applicable to the DOB and the City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and expediting DOB and DEP inspections and approvals.

In the City, the DOB is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the New York City Building Code and for ensuring public safety in the construction, alteration and occupancy of buildings located within the City. The DEP is responsible for managing the City's water supply and wastewater system. By law, the DEP is vested with ultimate authority to regulate how new sewer connections are made. The DOB conducts inspections of new sewer connections in the manner prescribed by DEP.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The actions of the individuals who pleaded guilty today show their disregard for the rules and regulations that are put in place to protect the public. This case underscores one of the direct consequences of municipal corruption – that public safety can be placed at risk. DOI was pleased to work with federal law enforcement authorities in vigorously investigating these crimes."

According to the indictment, on several occasions, in exchange for the bribes, MASSARI provided “sign-offs” on paperwork required by the City, even though inspections had not been done. In addition, on several occasions, DEGRATTO told Pullini work crews to deviate from DEP approved plans and instead of constructing a single, direct connection from an attached residence to the main sewer line, as required by the original plans, illegal hook-ups were conducted adjoining the sewer lines of two, separate attached residences through the installation of a “Y” connection, according to the indictment. Much less digging and fewer materials were required to complete the job, as a result, the indictment said.

A DOI investigation found that MASSARI, of Mount Kisco, N.Y., stopped working at DOB in 2003. DEGRATTO, of Manchester, N.J., is retired from Pullini.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd and her staff for their ongoing assistance in this investigation. Commissioner Gill Hearn also thanked the FBI’s New York Field Office for their partnership in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Inspector General Michael Carroll and Deputy Inspector General Michael Healy, under the supervision of Associate Commissioner John Kantor of the DEP Inspector General’s Office. Also assisting in the investigation was Special Inspector General Dennis Curran from the DOB Inspector General’s Office, and DOB’s Special Investigation Unit’s Deputy Chief Investigator Crissy DeAngelo and Investigator Robert Miller.

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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