



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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DOI ARRESTS UNLICENSED ARCHTECT FOR FILING FORGED DOCUMENTS

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of DOMINICK G. BRIOCHE, the former owner of GRID DESIGN SERVICE, a Brooklyn-based business, and formerly an Expediter registered with the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB), on charges of filing with DOB eight sets of forged architectural plans and related documents.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Evading safeguards by knowingly filing a forged architect's certification of a building plan is a criminal act that also could jeopardize public safety. Anyone foolish enough to file false and forged documents with a City office faces the risks of arrest, criminal prosecution, and, upon conviction, a prison term."

BRIOCHE, 39, of Brooklyn, was arrested last Thursday and charged with seven counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a class E felony, Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, Unauthorized Use of a Professional Title, a class A misdemeanor, and related crimes. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

BRIOCHE is not a licensed architect. After a homeowner asked DOB how to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy for construction work BRIOCHE had designed, DOB's Special Investigations Unit (BSIU), working with DOI, investigated the matter. The investigation revealed that between 2001 and 2005 BRIOCHE had filed eight sets of plans with DOB's Brooklyn office knowing that they included the forged signature, stamp, and State license number of a licensed architect who had neither reviewed the plans nor authorized the use of his stamp and signature on them. Under DOB's regulations, the filings would not have been accepted unless they were endorsed and signed by a New York State-licensed architect.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DOB Commissioner Patricia Lancaster and her staff for their assistance and cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI and BSIU investigators, including, from DOI, Inspector General Rebecca Holland and Acting Deputy Inspector General Kim Ryan, and from BSIU, Special Inspector General Dennis Curran and Supervising Investigator James McElligott.

The office of Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is prosecuting the case, which has been assigned to Assistant District Attorney Michael Ryan.

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call 311 or DOI directly at (212) 825-5959.