



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

ROSE GILL HEARN

COMMISSIONER

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**DOI ARRESTS RESTAURANT OPERATOR ON BRIBERY CHARGE**

**- Undercover investigator was allegedly paid \$200 to ignore health code violations in Manhattan -**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), announced today the arrest of KAZUO MITSUYA, 66, a restaurant operator in Manhattan, for allegedly paying a \$200 bribe to a DOI undercover investigator who posed as a City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) inspector. The payoff was allegedly given to avoid summonses for Health Code violations.

Today's arrest reflects DOI's ongoing effort to arrest restaurant owners who try to circumvent the City's Health Code by bribing or attempting to bribe Health inspectors to ignore code violations. This arrest originated from a City Health inspector's report to DOI that the owner of the Naniwa Restaurant of Japan, at 4 East 46<sup>th</sup> Street, in Manhattan, allegedly offered him a bribe. As a result, DOI sent an undercover investigator, posing as a Health inspector, to visit the establishment.

Commissioner Gill Hearn said, "This arrest underscores DOI's commitment to rooting out municipal corruption. Honest City employees who are offered bribes by restaurant owners or managers refuse the money and notify DOI of the attempted payoffs. Their honesty and integrity reflect the overwhelming majority of decent and hardworking City employees."

A DOI undercover investigator went to the Naniwa Restaurant of Japan and met MITSUYA, who said he was the owner. After the undercover pointed out violations that included a piece of roach carcass in a sugar bin, uncovered meat on shelves and in the refrigerator, wrapped meat laying on the floor, and employees' preparing sushi without wearing protective gloves, MITSUYA allegedly offered and paid the undercover investigator \$200 to overlook the violations.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked the DOHMH Commissioner, Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, for his office's cooperation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Inspector General for DOHMH, Christopher Staackmann and his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Stephan Zander, Chief Investigator Byron Biggerstaff, and Special Investigators John Eleftheriades and Danielle Caruso, with assistance from DOI's Investigative Squad of New York City Police Department detectives.

The case is being referred to the office of the New York County District Attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau.

An arrest charge is an accusation. 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.***