



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**MAN WHO TRIED TO STEAL SOHO GRAND HOTEL SENTENCED TO A YEAR IN JAIL
AND IS AWAITING DEPORTATION**

KOUADIO KOUASSI, 47, was sentenced today in Manhattan Supreme Court to a year in jail for attempting to steal the SoHo Grand Hotel in 2006. He has already served that year and is now being held on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer and will be deported. He has been convicted of Attempted Grand Larceny in the First Degree, a class C felony, for attempting to steal the SoHo Grand Hotel by filing a fraudulent deed with the New York City Department of Finance (DOF), which would have transferred ownership of the SoHo Grand Hotel to himself. DOI was told about the ruse by an alert DOF employee.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "The conviction and sentencing of this individual, who tried to engineer a scheme that would net him a major commercial property in the City, underscores the serious consequences to this type of crime. Individuals who think they can try and scam the City by filing false deeds need to know that they will be caught and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The Office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau prosecuted the case.

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.